ISEKAI

CANCELLER

chapter 21 -30

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Chapter 21 “The Three People at the Transaction Site”

Truth be told, I would have rather not brought Melissa along to the slum district.
But there was no inn for her to stay at, and I can’t just leave her in the city by herself.
It would be problematic if she got involved with another strange bunch after all.
Above all, I should not forget about the fact that Melissa was still not my official slave yet.

So, as expected, I have to do my best to protect her here.
Honestly, with the way Melissa is dressed right now, bringing her into the slums like this was like throwing her into a pack of carnivores while wearing a dress of raw meat. But, well, nothing we could do about that.
Also——

「Yo, nii-chan. Nice slave ya got-」
「Cancel」

「Ey you, leave that slave here fer-」
「Cancel」

「We’re famous around here for our sharp knives ya know」
「If ya don’t wanna end up as rust on these knives then leave your money and that slave here wit us~」
「It’s bad ya know~ It’s bad ya know~ Disobeying is bad ya know~」

「Cancel! Cancel! Cancel!」

Phew. Well, I continued to Cancel every one of these generic-like events.
Cancel sure is useful when you’re in a hurry.

「Ano Goshujin-sama, I really am sorry……」(Melissa) 「Like I’ve been saying Melissa, you don’t have go apologizing for every single little thing. Besides, the one who made you wear such an erotic outfit was me」(Hitto)
「E-Erotic……」(Melissa) Melissa’s face was once again dyed the same color as a freshly plucked strawberry.

She must've once again become aware of that thing called "Eroticism".
But it's because Melissa's body is seriously erotic you know.
On top of that, despite that lewd body, her face has a bit of Loli in it. Thinking about it again, she was already on a dangerous level, to the point where you could call it "criminal".

In all honesty, I almost lost my composure and started snickering, but I managed to hold in my laughterfor now. We went in search of the bum that Daimon informed us about but—— It was relatively easy to spot him.

On a woven mat, no it was more like a straw mat. Anyways, on a straw mat that wasn't in too great of a condition, just as Daimon said, there was a bum with a red beard.
Sure enough, behind the red bearded bum was a building and beside that ran an alleyway.

We headed down that alley but, the constant stares aimed at us were annoying.
From that alleyway were, eyes that had a relentless glitter to them or eyes that were lifeless and pale, I'm not sure which one it was.
Although it's not much better than what men do, but there were women in broad daylight trying to seduce men with their coquettish voices.
They also had slave collars that acted as subjugation devices stuck to them.
Mostly likely they were ordered to bring "customers" to this place.

In such a dangerous place like this I don't think they would be able to bring much business but, well, I'm sure that they are getting "support" from somewhere or other.

Well, I doubt any of them would come call out to me though.
After all, Melissa is with me and she's on a completely different level when compared to the prostitutes there.

It's just, well, since she's on such an outstanding level there are many guys trying to get in with her. While making plenty use of Cancel as we passed through the alley, we were finally able to reach our destination, the bar "Mysterious Drunkards".

It wasn't just the signboard, but the whole building was like a busted up

wooden shack. But anyways, we decided to head inside.
The door was poorly fitted. While struggling to open it up, we managed to set foot inside the store but, since this store didn't have any windows that let in much light, for now it was dim and hard to see.

Well, this is the slums where there are plenty of underground jobs. In order to make it so that you couldn't get a good glimpse at other people's faces, there's a pretty high chance that it was designed to not let in the sunlight.

On the left-hand side of the store's interior was a counter with three seats. Aside from that there were 5 wooden tables that would seat at most four people, they were set up from left to right in an alternating fashion .
It was deep in the back on the right hand side. Sitting alone by the wall was a customer smoking a Kiseru pipe.
Just like his name of "plate head" implies, in the center of his untidy hair was a bald spot in the shape of a plate.

I approached the man, but he didn't comment on me at all and continued to drink his sake.
It was sake with a really strong smell. The smell was completely unlike any sake that I have ever smelled before in my previous world, if I had to compare it to something then I would say that it gave off a stench similar to cheese.

While thinking that I would never want to drink that,
「Hello, nice weather today huh」(Hitto)
I used the "password" I was taught earlier.

After that he turned is googly sanpaku eyes towards me.

「Don't be stupid, it's gonna rain the rest of the day」
He answered exactly like Daimon said he would.

「I see. By the way, do you know a guy called Daimon?」(Hitto) After hearing my words the man acknowledged that he knew Daimon. And once all the validations were over it was finally time for me to ask the last question.

「I see, by the way, where can we get tonight's dinner?」(Hitto) As I said that I secretly handed him a 10,000 Gold coin.
The man took the gold coin, and he told me where the transaction was going to take place.

Apparently, after going out of the opposite end of this alleyway we should head in the opposite direction of the Thieves Guild. It seems like today's transaction location is going to be at a building with a star mark hanging on it.

It was about 15 minutes before the transaction would take place. We really have to hurry up huh.

「Goshujin-sama……」
「Yea——」

Well, the result was that we found my covered wagon pretty much right away. The reason being was that once we arrived near transaction location that the Kappa told us about, we saw three men pulling the wagon.
Wait, aren't those three the same guys that got involved with Melissa earlier? That trio really is a bunch of good-for-nothing guys huh.
…… Leaving that aside, they stick out like a sore thumb. Since they couldn't bring the wagon inside of the building itself, naturally they would be on standby outside of the place.

Incidentally, no one else was so blatantly standing in wait in front of the transaction location.
Of course there was no one. Who would want to attract attention during an underhanded deal.

「……Hey, what's up with the wagon crew, are they newbies?」
「Do they even understand how this deal works?」
「Hey, someone go and tell em」
「Nah, they're idiots right? It's a waste of effort trying to explain it to an idiot……」

Yea, I have pretty good ears after all. I was able to listen in on hushed conversations like that.
Well, I pretty much already knew they were not too bright from the moment I met them though.
Well whatever. Or rather, in a situation like this it would probably be faster to bring them to a different place and finish them off.

「Here we go, Melissa」(Hitto)

「O-okay!」(Melissa) While shielding Melissa behind my back, I came close to the stolen wagon and the three idiots waiting for the deal.

「Hey, you guys」(Hitto) 「Huh? what's up with you…… wait, haven't I seen your face before?」
「Ah!? That's the guy who was at the Guild yesterday!」
「Why if it ain't that cocky rookie from before!」

It looks like they more or less remember about me. Since I Canceled it they didn't mention the incident with Melissa, but it seems like they still have some lingering resentment from when they first saw me at the Guild.
It isn't like Cancel erases all of your memories after all.

「Still, ya bastard, for a rookie like you to end up here huh. Do ya even know what this place is?」

「More or less. Or rather, instead of coming here on our own we chased you instead」(Hitto) The trio's eyebrows all spiked up. Looks like my presumption was correct.

「You chased us you say? Why is that?」

「Since that wagon is mine after all」(Hitto) Hearing that, the three men exchanged glances.

「T-this wagon is yours you say? Y-you got no way to prove it!」

「I already registered as it's owner. If you had it verified then you would find out right away. Shall we all go to the Merchant Guild?」(Hitto) The bunch groaned "Gakku" in quiet voices. Now then, let's see if they obediently give in or not.

「Sh-shaddup! This wagon is something We found! That's why it already belongs to us!」
「If you want us to hand it over then give us the money for it!」
「While you're at it, give us that slave too!」

…… As expected, trying to reason with them was pointless. Wait, why do I have to pay you for something that was stolen from me?

「I don't feel like paying you. Also, if you absolutely won't return the wagon

then…… Are you fine with me being a bit “forceful” too?」(Hitto) After I said that their faces warped into a grin.

「Ye sure gots some guts huh. Going against us like that. Right, First?」
「You sure said it, Second. This guy doesn’t value his life」
「Hey, Third~ get a load of this guy. Is he trying to bluff us or something? His legs are shaking」

They are not shaking at all though. Wait, these guys’ names are First, Second, and Third!?
What kind of Position are you trying to keep!?
……Well whatever.

「In that case, let’s take this somewhere else」(Hitto) I jerked my chin as I told them. But those guys just made disgruntled expressions.

「Hah? Ain’t it fine of we did it here」
「Well then ya bastard! You just trying to bother my buddies!?」
「First off, why the hell do we have to listen to what you say anyways!」

……These guys can’t be serious, right?

「You guys, did you forget why you came here for? Just try and see what happens if you start a fight right in front of the transaction spot. Far from being able to sell the wagon, you might end up with someone aiming to take your life you know. Is that alright with you?」

Perhaps they finally understood after I said that, the three exchanged looks while slightly in a panic.

「H-hmph! Fine, we’ll play along. But! I, First, will be deciding on the location!」

Tsk, what a troublesome bunch. Well fine.

Melissa and I stepped back from the wagon and followed the three from behind——

◇◆◇

「Now then, if it’s here then we can go at it to our hearts content」

The place where the bunch took us was an open and empty space within the slums. The width of the alleyway widened out, and there was pretty much

nothing to obstruct your view.
Although, the outer edges of the space were still partially surrounded by buildings.
I guess you could say that it sort of felt like a plaza within the slums.
Well, it was still a desolate place without a fountain or anything though.
That's probably why they figured that this would make a good place for a fight.

By the way, there was absolutely no one else around. At least, that's how it should have been, but there were quite of number of curious looks spectating us from the side.
Well, it doesn't seem like they are planning to get closer. Perhaps they noticed the atmosphere between us but, unbeknownst to us, their gazes retreated and could only be sensed from the depths of the shadows. They also started placing bets on which one of us would win.

Well, this is the Slums after all. To be honest, this kind of thing probably happens all the time. Seems like the residents of this area have learned to make a meal out of anything, no matter what it is.

And so, I once again began observing my opponents to gain more details on them.
The one named Second had his belly sticking out, based on earlier it seems like he's most likely the leader of the pack.
His height was about the same as mine but I feel that his middle portion was much bigger.

On his body were sheets of armor that looked stuck together, as for the raw materials, well, I assume it was made of iron. I guess you could say the quality wasn't all that great? It was like the types of armor you would call Lamellar Armor, the type of armor where the iron sheets are joined together with things like string.

It was shaped in an apron like fashion so that it would only protect the torso. From his shoulders to his arms, I'm not sure if it's to show off his muscles or something, but they were uncovered with exposed flesh.

From his waist down were obviously trousers, but equip to his knees were iron kneecaps.

Because of that he really looks like an underling huh.

In his hand he was holding an axe. It was the double-edged type with a wooden body. It would probably be called a type of battle axe, but I don't think it's very deserving of such a title. Extra Note

The 2nd person was a man by the name of Third who was wearing a scaly like armor. In comparison he was a tall man with long brown hair. A thin and narrow physique.
His armor was something called Scale Armor. With leather as a foundation, it was armor that had iron scrap sown together with string.

It was made in a similar fashion to lamellar armor, but compared to lamellar armor which is made entirely with iron plates, the leather foundation and the smaller scales made it easier to move in. At least that's what how the game's guide explained it.

In the game, lamellar armor had much higher defensive ability, but the number of jobs that used scale armor were many.
Since this man is wearing a quiver on his back and carries a bow in his hand, it's very likely that he has the job of Archer.

After all, even though it was impossible for archers to use lamellar armor, it was still possible for them to use scale armor back in the game.
The weapon in his hand was a Long Bow…… No, must be a High Long Bow huh.
Compared to a regular long bow, high long bows were the type that possesses more destructive power and the bowstring was also reinforced.

Personally I think this archer is going to be the most troublesome opponent to deal with.
Even if I Cancelled them, it will be difficult deal with constant long distance attacks.

The last of them was a short black haired man by the name of First. It looks like he some of his hair tied up in a knot behind his head.
Among their discontent looks, this man looked the most pissed off. His face revealed some particularly evil intentions.
His equipment were easy to move in leather armor and leather boots.
He had thin gloves on his hands, and in both of them were daggers. Specifically

they were weapons called Rondel Daggers. Spanning a length of 30 cm, they were both daggers that had handguards in the shape of round disks, and he was holding them both in a ready stance.

Duel wielding knives and daggers during combat was the style used by the Thief class.
Since he was wearing easy to move in leather armor that wouldn't make a sound, leather boots that wouldn't impede movement, and gloves that allowed him to perform precise tasks without much hindrance, it shouldn't be wrong to assume that his job was a Thief.
You could almost tell just by his atmosphere. It seems like he's stolen a lot of things before, not just the wagon.

Fumu, even without a Magic class their team balance isn't that bad huh. Especially for the archer-While he's pinning down the opponent from long range, the thief can lookfor a surprise attack.
And once the archer and thief have chiseled away at them, the fighter can go in for the finishing blow. It was also possible for the fighter to act as a wall and buy enough time for the archer to take aim, and the thief could circle around in that time and attack from behind.

Well, in terms of combat ability, I am clearly on a higher level than them.
I don't plan on underestimating them, even if they looks like opponents that will definitely lose but——

「Go-Goshijin-sama! Please allow me to provide you with Support!」(Melissa)
Wait, what?

Chapter 22 “First-Time Team Battle”

Melissa made an appeal for me to allow her to participate in the fight.
I’m sure in a pinch. I have never once thought of having Melissa assist me in combat.
After all, based on what abilities I’ve seen so far, I figured Melissa would be more of a production or assistanttype rather than a combat type.

Especially since her abilities of appraisal were so high. If we successfully managed to become master and slave, then I was planning on tailoring her job to something more related to production; it would make a good balance between us.

However, since I so carelessly gifted her a weapon, it looks like Melissa is already thinking “I want to live up to your expectations!” or something like that. I feel like my plan sort of backfired there.

Although, I never did tell Melissa that I only wanted her to use it for self-defense.

「Melissa. I’ll be fine by myself either way. Since I don’t want you getting hurt, it’s fine if you just watch from the sidelines」(Hitto)「No way, Goshujin-sama! If I did that then I could never stop apologizing to Goshujin-sama! Even after you gave me such a splendid weapon, if I can’t even support you in combat then I am a failure as a slave!」(Melissa) Aaa~, so it really was the weapon, huh. So that’s why she’s so strangely fired up.
Also, those eyes… it’s like they’re saying “I absolutely won’t give in!”

I guess you could call thisMelissa’s stubborn side. Looks like once she decides on something she will not budge a single inch on it.
She also had a stubborn attitude when she asked if she could call me Goshujin-sama.

「Ey what’s wrong! Ya chickening out!?」

……Tsk. Looks like I’m being pressured on all sides. On top of that, the spectators were growing in number and they were growing restless as if saying “Hurry up and start already~!”

Fumu, in this situation it would be dangerous to tell Melissa to be quiet and just listen to me.
Of course I plan on prioritizing Melissa's safety over everything else, but maybe it would be safer for her to move around rather than being a stationary target.

I looked over Melissa's equipment one more time.
A wind estoc and the mirage dress huh……with this she should be able to handle this bunch. There's also the fact that did learn some swordsmanship, even if it's just a little.

「Okaythen, Melissa. But only under the condition that you act according to my instructions. Can you do that?」(Hitto) 「Yes! Of course! I will be sure to meet Goshujin-sama's expectations!」(Melissa) She sure is raring to go huh……Alright! Let's just believe in her and see what happens.
I gave Melissa a summary of our strategy. Afterwards she nodded and confirmed the plan with an 'understood'.

Alright! Now then——

「Oh, ya finally ready huh. We were gettin' tired of wait'n」

「So, what's up with the slave Nee-chan?」

「Oi oi, you can't be serious. That Nee-chan is going to fight too? This isn't a 'tussle in the bedroom' you know」

I'm not sure what's so funny about it, but they were laughing their asses offwhile making vulgar comments.
To be honest, it wasn't the least bit amusing. But as expected, it seems like they judged Melissa to be a complete non-factor when it came to combat.

「Well then, come at me. I pity you so to start off I'll take you on by myself」

The one called Second with his belly sticking out was the first one to speak, he started gesturing "come on" with his hand.
Well, I'm fine with whoeveryou know.
It's just, what's up with the archer standing behind you with his arrow tightly notched?
If I'm not careful then I might get shot at, even though it's suppose to be one-on-one.

Fumu, anyways, let's assess our opponent's abilities. Based on his rank, he should be a basic fighter but… in any case, I drew closer to the opponent before me.

Now then, how will you react——

「Ha! What an idiot! Die, Helmet Crusher!」(Second) …… Second came at me while swinging down his mace, but I took a step to the side and dodged it.

「Ohh. So you were able to dodge my Helmet Crusher, you ain't half bad」(Second) While saying something like that, a creepy grin surfaced on his face
By the way, Helmet Crusher is a mace technique—— Or more precisely, it was one of the fundamental techniques of blunt class weapons like clubs and maces. It may seem like just a downward swing, but it involved placing all your weight into the attack at the time of impact which caused the destructive power of the attack to rise substantially.

And as the name indicates, it greatly decreases the endurance values of helmets. And though it was called a fundamental technique, I didn't think there would be an idiot dumb enough to use it——

But, this guy is an idiot. At this point, there is surely no doubting it.
First of all, Helmet Crusher is a technique which always involves you swinging your weapon in a downward motion.
Doing an overhead attack leaves you vulnerable in many places and the motion is large and easy to predict.

Nevertheless, this idiot. He just attacked while giving himself awayby shouting out "Helmet Crusher!"
If it was all a feint then I would be a bit impressed by it, but this guy is just too simple minded, there wasn't a single hint of deceit.

How should I put this, dealing with him just seems so trivial.
In my mind, I can't see this guy as anything more than alowlysmall fry.
Well, I highly doubt that he would do the same thing twice in a row——

「But I won't miss this time! Helmet Crusher!」(Second)
「Cancel」(Hitto) He really did it a second time. This guy's an idiot, seriously.
Geez, this is already taking too much time so I swiftly used Cancel on him.

Since hewas 100% confident when he was winding up his attack, once it didn't go off he was sitting there with a flustered expression.

And, in that instant I took a step forward. I'll make sure to teach you just how stupid you are. Now, first is the right arm!

「BUHYO! BUHAaAaAITEeYOoŌŌO!」

As the sword in my right hand sank into his shoulder,it suddenly came to a stop.
As I thought, his fat is really thick. But of course I just used Cancel on it and proceeded to swing with my left arm. The blade dug into his underarm and after Canceling that I used Fang Slicer; his right arm holding the mace was sliced clean off.

[Fang Slicer] is a skill where your twin swords intersect from above and below as they cut through your opponent.
Based on that appearance, it was given that name because it resembles fangs taking down the enemy.

It's great that I was able to pull it off on the first try, but for a Canceller who's overall physical strength is low, slicing off an opponent's arm who has such thick fat is no easy task.
Because of that, I first shaved off the meat on both sides before using Fang Slicer to finish the job.

And so, Second who had his arm sliced off was obviously in agony. That is an extreme understatement though.
Letting out an unsightly scream, he used his remaining arm to try and apply pressure to his bleeding shoulder, but——

A right slash from above【Cancel】A left slash from below【Cancel】Fang Slicer!

「GUGIGIGIIIIGIIIIoIIEEeEEeEEEEEEEEHIIIIGIIIeIIAIIIIIaIIIO"DENOvuDEGAGAGAG

While screaming out his dying breaths, Second fell over and landed on his back with a thud.
Yea, looks like he's dead. Well of course he is. Having both of his arms severed like that, I don't think anyone would have survived it.
I guessthe excessive blood loss caused him to die by shock. His arms were hacked

clean off his shoulders after all.
The vast amount of blood is pooling on the ground and spreading out, you know.

It would be troublesome if it got on my boots. Let's stay away from it.

「YOU! YOU BASTARD, LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO SECOND!」

And, next up was the pissed off First who was brandishing his daggers while scowling.
Well, it's not like it's very scary.

「Hey Third! There's no need to hold back anymoree! Kill Him!」(First) Ahh~ I thought that might be the case. But you know——

「Melissa, Now!」(Hitto)
「Okay!」(Melissa) The voice of a girl with a brave spirit managed to reach my ears.
Immediately following it was the sound of something cutting through the air. This was proof that Melissa had thrown the knife I gave her at her opponent.

「Na!? y-you, damn bitch」

Third raised his voice. And First's eyeballs twitched in response to it.
That means that it must have entered his sights. That is to say, he must have seen my precious partner Melissa daringly challenge Third.

「Damn! Fighting along with your slave too!」(First)
「Did anyone say that it would only be me doing the fighting?」(Hitto) Although I did originally intend to take you guys on by myself you know. Well, I guess one of the reasons our surprise attack was successful was because these guys also thought the same thing.

「I won't furgive ya, I'll kill ya. W-what! This bitch became all blurry, fuck! What the hell is going on!」(Third) Looks like it worked. He must have focused a lot of his hostility on her. And that's when the special effect of the Mirage Dress activates.
Right now Third should be seeing Melissa's figure as a blurry haze.

From the start, I told Melissa to aim for Third who was using the bow.
I said to her that I would somehow deal with the other two, so on my signal she should throw the knife before attacking.

There was no need for the knife to hit. I told her it was fine as long as the knife caused him to focus his attention on you.
In addition to that, if Melissa draws her sword and charges towards him, then she should be focused on her even if he doesn't want to.

If he did then then his bow's aim would change to Melissa. And of course so would his hostility.
And when that happens the magic effect of the dress would manifest, and it would confuse the enemywithout fail.

She really did follow my instructions to the "T" huh. Melissa should be charging her enemy while using her footwork and dodging left and right to avoid getting locked on by an arrow.
Instead of just confusing the enemy, moving around a lot would obviously make it hard to aim.

Since Melissa is keeping Third busy, there shouldn't be any arrows coming my way.
Since the opponent is only at an Amateur rank, he shouldn't be able to use the archery skill [Wide Shot] where you scatter arrows all over the place.
It's possible that he can use the [Double Shot] skill to shoot two arrows in a row but even still, the probability of it hitting would be very low. No, there's no way it would hit! Even if he somehow managed to set his marks on her, it would still be extremely difficult to hit Melissa with the bonus magic effect that conceals her figure.

If Melissa went up against Second who I finished off earlier, or even against First who is standing right in front of me, then I definitely couldn't ensure that she would make it out unscathed.
It's true that the benefit of having the Mirage Dress is that it obscures your opponent's sight, but if she got into close combat withan opponent who could swing his weapon around randomly then there's a possibility thatan attack might hit and injure her.

If Melissa's beautiful skin ended up with even the tiniest of scars then it would cause me unbearable anguish.
That's why I told her to only go after the archer. In addition, the archer really was an annoyance so putting him in a position where it was impossible to

interfere was of huge significance.
I told Melissa that she was actually playing a very important role.
'I'm placing my trust in you!' it's important to make her think that. In situations like this, people can grow several times stronger if they know they are being relied on.

「Now then, what will you do? With this you guys's chances of winning just got even lower you know?」(Hitto) 「Shatdaup! In that case I'll just hurry up kill ya and then I'll go finish off that woman too!」(First) Once I threw in some words to provoke him, he raised his tone of voice and came lunging at me.
It appears that he's completely lost his cool, but since First was his rank he should have some really fast movements stowed away in his pocket. He came at me by swinging the dagger in his left hand.
It's trajectory came from the bottom left and would end upslicing through tothe upper right. I guess he was aiming for around my neck.
It looks like he's trying to end it in one blow, but in that case all I have to do is Canc……No his aim is——

I raised the sword in my right hand to try and intercept the blade——but, his dagger didn't make contact with my sword, it slipped through and disappeared…… Just as I thought.

「You idiot! That was a feint!」(First)
「Of course I knew that, Cancel!」(Hitto) First pulled a feint and pulled away from me, while myeyes were focused on his blade he circled around behind me while I was distracted.
From there he was probably planning on launching an offensive with an attack from behind, but I quicklyturned my head around and threw a Cancel at him when he entered my sights.
My opponent's eyes were filled with shock.Since it took him too long to react, there was no way for him start moving again.
And since I was a bit worried about Melissa, I decided to end it swiftly.

Readying the twin swords level around my waist, and twisting my body as hard as I could, I began rotating. As if being swallowed by a tornado, it was a sword technique that slashed the enemy countless number of times.

「GI-GIEEEEEEEE」

Letting out an indecent cry, First fell to floor while spurting out blood from his torso that was chopped to pieces.
Naturally, he was no longer breathing.

Nevertheless, this man was much better than Second was. Without yelling out the skill name, he pretended to lose his cool while skillfully using an effective skill.

[Feint Slash]—— That's the technique this guy used. Although it was called a feint, it wasn't just a practical technique. From my point of view it looked like a skill that left an afterimage of your previous attack.
And while your opponent was preoccupied with the afterimage, you could launch a surprise attack from behind just he did earlier. Distraction was the true purpose of the technique.

But in the end he couldn't keep his poker face intact. Once he knew that I was focused on his attack, I saw the corners of his mouth slightly shift into a grin.
That's when I realized that maybe he was going to pull a feint.

That's why I pretended to to fall for itinstead, and I bet it all on using Cancel when he started his real attack.
And from there I finished it with the twin sword skill [Hurricane Slicer].
Even amongst twin sword skills, this was a pretty high level skill. While rotating around like a tornado you could cut down enemies from all sides.

Well then, I finished of my opponents without any trouble but——

「Haa!」(Melissa)
「Giii! M-My shoulder! Son of a bitch!」(Third) Just as I shifted my attention over to Melissa, she used the effect of the Wind Estoc to produce a blade of wind that gouged into Third's shoulder.
That wound sure is deep. It's probably impossible for him to shoot arrows anymore.
Now then, it looks like the victor has been decided, but I feel a bit awkward having Melissa murder somebody.

I place my beloved twin swords Seiko Kiten back into their scabbards, and took out a throwing knife that I used as a sub-weapon. Aiming at Third, I let it fly.

「Eh??」(Melissa) The knife crisply landed right in his forehead, and he died while falling over backwards.

Naturally, I retrieved the knife by using Cancel.
Melissa froze in place as she was trying to reason out what exactly happened just now.

「Way to go, Melissa. You really helped me out. I already finished on my end. So it's our victory」(Hitto) As I approached her I raised my voice. Since it seems likeMelissa realized that I was the one who delivered the final blow, she turn around wearing a bright smile on her face.
Somewhere along the line, the gallery of spectators grew by a substantial amount. They were cheering "Hip Hip Hoorray~" in a grandiose manner.

The way we coordinated our fight, it seems like the residents of the slums really took a liking to it.

Well, whatever the case may be, for me who was mainly a solo player even in the game, my first ever Team Play, it ended in a splendid victory——

Extra TL note: Okay, I had too much fun reading the death sounds, but it's pretty much a copy paste of the raw.

Chapter 23 “The Broker’s Shadow”

「That was amazing Nii-chaa~~n!」
「It’s been awhile sinceI got ‘tasee something so good」
「Yea, if ya lost like that then there’d be no regrets」
「And that pretty slave Nee-chan with dem giant tits tried her best too ～I think I might become a fan～～」

Melissa had already returned to my side and I was relieved to find that she didn’t have any injuries. But still, the surrounding gallery getting fired up like that was a bit of a put off.

Actually, the corpses of the three I just killed are still rolling around you know. For them to be completely fine with seeing dead bodies… This must be an everyday occurrence around here.

That being said, we seriously stood out too much. Melissa and I aren’t people from the slums to begin with, so I wouldn’t want our faces to be easily recognized here but…… Well, at this point I feel that it’s already the case. But still——

「Melissa, we’ve already retrieved the wagon so let’s hurry up and get out of here. I wouldn’t want to stay in a place like this for too long」(Hitto)「Y-Yes, Goshujin-sama! Then we should immediately——」(Melissa)「Oh~ How magnificent. Bravo~ Bravo~」

As I was leading Melissa away, the sound of violent clappingreached our ears. A voice from behind us called out words of praise as if trying topreventus from leaving.

Normally it would be fine to just ignore it all together, but once I realized thatthe voice and applause had instantly silenced the surrounding gallery, I ended up being a bit curious.

While firmly holding onto Melissa’s soft hand, I turned towards the owner of that voice.
Standing there was a man wearing a black coat, and on his head was a brimmed hat matching the same color as his coat.
Catching glimpses of his hair I could tell that it was ink black, as if everything

other than his skin was dyed in the color of darkness.
With a befittingmedium-sizedbuild, he didn't seem like the type that had the strength to instantly silence people.

His face was thin and pale, upon his nose sat a pair of round rimless glasses, and his eyes were so thin that I couldn't tell if they were open or closed. I guess you could say he was one of thoseslit-eye kind of guys.

But…… Even though it would've been better to hurry up and leave, I was still intrigued for some reason.

「It isn't like we did anything worthy of praise though」(Hitto)「No, no. That's definitely not the case. Because of you two, I was able to earn quite a lot」

Earn? …… Oh, I see.

「You mean because of a bet? But gambling on the outcome was something you guys started on your own. It has nothing to do with me」(Hitto)「Nothing to do with you, is it. For the inhabitants here, normally the earnings would be split among those who picked correctly you see. Because of that it was a really huge profit, since I was the only one who bet on you two after all」

The only one? No, I guess that would be obvious. Our opponents were three men, and our side only had me and Melissa who was a woman.
But to think that there would be only one winner huh. If this man hadn't bet on us then no on would've made a bet that was correct in the end. How does it feel to lose like that?

「By the way, is this really all right? The hyenas will swarming here in search of flesh, won't they?」

Hyenas? as I was pondering that in my mind, my attention shifted to the corpses of the three guys from earlier.
And then I understood, exactly like hyenas, the people of the slums wereshredding the corpses looking for valuable possessions.

……Well when you put it like that, Don't Screw With Me! Although I'm not really thinking that.

「I don't mind. That bunch doesn't have anything of significant value. It's just——」(Hitto) That's right, either way I didn't care for anything those guys

had, and I planned on taking Melissa and leaving right away. But you know, that's why That is acompletelydifferent matter!

I aimed a knife towards a bunch that were close to the wagon and threw it at them.
And thus the blade landed in front of their feet, and with an unsightly "Hiii-" a person coming close to the wagon fell back on his ass.

「That wagon is ours. Hands, Off!」(Hitto) I scowled at them while letting out all my blood lust. Probably sensing the danger of the situation, the hyenas that were drawing near to the wagon all ran off at full speed.

「Oh I see, I see. So the reason why you went as far as to fight them is because they stole your wagon」

I turned my gaze to the slit-eyed man, and checked is appearance again.
Placing his finger on his chin, he made a gesture like he just solved a mystery.
But that isn't exactly very impressive. Judging by the situation you could easily come to that conclusion after all.

「A-Amazing, Goshujin-sama. How does he know that?」(Melissa)
「……」(Hitto) Melissa whispered closely into my ear. I think you're airheadedness is cute too, you know.

「Well, it's true that that wagon belongs to us. But now that our business is done I'd like to hurry up and get out of here. If you don't have anything else to say then we're leaving now」

Though I'm still a bit curious about this guy, I don't want him taking up too much of our time.
I turned aroundthinking'This time we're leaving for real'but…

「Now, Now, don't be so cold-hearted. I even went through the trouble of establishing mutualcuriosity between me and the original owner of the wagon I plannedon buying,after all」

I stopped in place after hearing those words casually spoken from behind.
Did he say "I planned on buying" ?

「Wait, Could it be… Are you the rumored 'Broker'?」

I turned my head as I asked. I did think that he had a strange atmosphere about him though.

「Yes. I am the one who specializes in purchasing stolen goods in these slums, I am called “Shadow”.A pleasure to make your acquaintance」(Shadow) He then, as if drawing an arc in the air, brought his right hand and placed it on his chest. With an impression of elegance he lightly bowed his head.
Well, rather than to show his respects it was more like he did it in a joking manner.

After all, once he raised his head he was smiling excessively. As expected of the Broker, he is basically the definition of “Shady-Looking”.

「I see. So the reason why you called out to us is because weobstructed your business. Something like a bit ofrevenge for that?」(Hitto) 「Oh, not at all」(Shadow) Shadow placed his right hand before his face and lightly waved it from side to side, trying to convey“You are incorrect”.

「They went and stole a person’s belongings without first assessing that person’s strength, which lead to their unsightly demise. Who cares about idiots like that. Also, that bunch, despite going to conduct an underhanded deal, they made no effort to conceal themselves. They are fools who displayed themselves out in the open as they waited. Rather thanwanting revenge, I should be thanking you for killing them off instead」(Shadow) ……Well, it’s just like he said. Aside from these guys, the other people waiting at the transaction site were hiding their figures in the shadows. I could hear their voices but I wasn’t able to visibly identify any of them.

Wait, these guys even had a thief in their party and yet they still didn’t realize that?
Seriously, this just confirms that they were a bunch of blockheads.

「But, if that’s the case then why did you call out to us?」(Hitto) 「Like I said earlier, it was because you piqued my curiosity. Also I wanted to convey my gratitude for helping me earn such a large profit, after all」(Shadow) 「Curiosity, huh……Wait, is it alright for you to be fooling around over here? Isn’t it time that the transaction started?」(Hitto) 「No need to worry. After all, I have people working for me who are basically my assistants. It should be fine if I show up

later just to check on how they are doing」(Shadow) I see. So he doesn't do all the work by himself huh.

「Is that so. But still, for you to have interest in us, huh. Melissa and I aren't residents of the slums, so if it wasn't for some reason like today's then we would never set foot in this place, you know?」(Hitto) 「Well, I wonder about that. From the looks of it you are an adventurer, no? In that case then you will probablyprocure various useful items. If that time comes then I would be grateful if you made use of our services. Of course, we won't be able to buy things that hold no value, but if you obtain some treasures during your adventures then, by all means, you are welcome to utilize our services」(Shadow) ……So this was basically public advertising huh? Well, like Shadow said, if I continued working as an adventurer then there's a possibility that I would get my hands on something good. But even so, there's no need to go out of my way to sell it here.
Although their prices might be higher than the Thieves Guild, their prices were still lower than the market value after all.

「Also, one more thing. Although I am still a small figure in these slums, I am running a store you see」(Shadow) "A store?" I answered back.

「Yes. The goods we purchase are primarily sold and distributed right away, but items that I am particularly fond of are being held on display at personal store. If you would like, please pay us a visit」(Shadow) Shadow then told us the location of his store. But he asked us to not share the location with other people.
It seems like he only tells people he likes about it.
Apparently it's because if he didn't keep it a secret then some idiots might show up wanting to sell their stolen goods there.

「With that, it is about time that I went to go have a look on how business is going. I am terribly sorry for stopping you. Well then, we graciously await your patronage」(Shadow) Having said his parting words, Shadow left our sights.
Still, despite having a build that didn't look fit for fighting, Shadow's footwork was impressive.
His movements looked as if he was gliding across the floor as he left.

「Somehow, he seems like a very peculiar person, doesn't he——」(Melissa) Melissa murmured as if she had witnessed some strange creature. I also replied

“He sure is” as I placed my hand on my chin.

Fumu, apart from selling him goods, I’m still a bit interested in this store of his. He might have some really unique items there. And above all else, he might have items that didn’t exist in the game.

Well, either way, it’s about time we left this place already. We ended up spending a bit too much time here.

「Alright then, we shall go now, Melissa」(Hitto) Melissa turned her head to me, and with a smile on her face,
「Okay, Goshujin-sama」
She replied.

Boarding the wagon, we left the slums behind. On the ride out, I praised Melissa on how well she did during the battle and was so happy that her eyes started to well up.
It really was quite impressive though. It might even be possible for her to get a combat related Job, but still… I still don’t think it’s the best decision.
Or rather, the battle today made it all the more clear that it would be better if she should have more of an auxiliary Job.
Especially since her judgmental skills are high, she would be able to analyze and find out an opponent’s weaknesses.

That being said, before we even consider which Job to pick, it’s pointless if we don’t do something about Melissa’s status as a slave first.
For now we should go and find out how much we earned from the Nankou Grass we harvested this morning.

But first things first, we haven’t had anything to eat since yesterday. Melissa must be famished as well.

「Melissa. You’re hungry by now, right? It’s a bit past the time, but before we head to the Guild let’s stop for some lunch」(Hitto) 「No, Goshujin-sama. I believe it best for us to head towards the Adventurer’s Guild first. It would be best if we finished our errands so that we can enjoy our meal with peace of mind」(Melissa)
I see, Melissa really has it all together. In that case——

「Then, keep going until we reach the Adventurer’s Guild. Sorry about that」(Hitto) 「Oh no, please do not worry about it, Goshujin-sama. Now then, I

will take us to the Guild, okay」(Melissa) And thus, while Melissa and I discussed various other things, in order to complete our first request, we made our way to the Guild——

Chapter 24 “Bank”

「S-So much -nyari. This is the first time an adventurer has brought back so much Nankou Grass nya know」

Once we arrived at the Adventurer’s Guild, I was taken to the usual separate room for assessment. Thiscat-girl receptionist was thoroughly surprised by the result.

Incidentally, if you brought in a typical amount of Nankou Grass then they would give you the reward right away.
But once I told them the quantity of Nankou Grass I brought backthey invited me to a separate room instead.

Of course, since Melissa wasn’t an adventurer she couldn’t enter the room as well. But this time I told her to wait by the counter. The wagon has the wagon watchers looking after it, and looking back on yesterday’s events I decided that it would be best if Melissa stayed inside the Guild with the receptionists.
The cat receptionist even asked the other receptionists to keep an eye out for her.
If some sort of trouble happens then they should contact me right away.

Ah, now that I remember about it, I never got to report about those wagon-thief adventurers who I personally disposed of.
During our conversation I slipped in a comment about the slums and,
「Don’t ever go near dere -nyari! There’s a lot of adventurers that go missing there -nyan! Unless it’s a special request from the Guild, don’t dare go sticking your head in dere -nyari!」
Is what she said.

If that’s the case then it would be better to say that they went missing. I don’t want any unnecessary trouble. The wagon is back safe and sound either way.
Wait, isn’t the number of this cat’s “-nyari”s increasing?

「Leaving that aside, how did you do it -nyan? It’s pretty well known that adventurers who struggle to find work all go scrambling to the Aloe Forest -nyan. There are few adventurers who would have a rough time against the Beginner level monsters -nyari, and even if you don’t like hunting then you can go

harvesting there -nyari」

She tilted her head and her cat ears twitched while awaiting an answer, but, you know.

「It's a secret. I can't go giving out information on a whim. If you still want to hear about it then you can pay me an information fee」(Hitto) 「Muuu you cheapskate -nyari. In the first place, this is the first time I've ever heard of an adventurer asking a receptionist for an information fee -nyan」

「Information is worth money after all」(Hitto) I'm one to know. After all, I have the firsthand experience of purchasing information from a gatekeeper.

「Well, fine -nyan. The total amount on Nankou Grass is 32kg and 565g -nyan. Rounding up, the total assessment total ends up as 32kg and 570g -nyan. All of that would be 162,850 Gold -nyan. Das Nyamazing (Amazing)! It's a nyu record!」

That's a bit more than I expected. But with this our total funds now exceed 1 million. It might be a bit tough to scrap together 1.5 million by tomorrow, but if we use the reservation system to extend the deadline to 5 days then we should somehow be able to earn that much.

However…… A new record huh——

「Hey, you said it was a new record but was that really true? I happen to overhear, but isn't there a bunch of guys who became Manager rank from just collecting Nankou Grass?」(Hitto) Once I asked, the catgirl receptionist displayed a look of discomfort.

「You must be referring to 3 brothers of the 'Three Green Stars' huh~. It's true, based on assessments of their previous harvesting results they were able to raise their adventurer ranks-nyan. But, since nyay (They) selfishly go roping off sections of the forest and drive other adventurers away, nyay (they) have a bad reputation -nyan. But since nya Guild doesn't have regulations against nyose (those) type of actions there's nyothing we can complain about -nyari」

I see. Well, if you had such an overbearing attitude like those three then it's obvious that your reputation would plummet.

「But nya know, the most those three's rucksacks can carry in one day is 6 kg so that was the record. Hitto-nyan brought back more than 5 times that amount -

nyan. Undoubtedly an incredible feat -nyan」

6 kg? With three people? Well, it's true that I had the benefit of the magic bag but… as "medical herb specialists" they should be spending their entire day collecting in the forest and come back at once.
After all, if they made several trips back and forth then they wouldn't be able to enforce their "special territory".

Maybe they're just slow…… If that's the case then it has to do with proficiency.
From the looks of it, those guys seemed clumsy after all.
The game had a specific value assigned to proficiency. Even if it wasn't displayed, it certainly did exist.
If the value was low then, for instance, the results would show if you were trying to lock-pick a chest.

So their proficiency also affects their ability to harvest herbs huh.
Speaking of which, 3/4ths of the Nankou Grass was harvested by me.
That doesn't necessarily mean that Melissa, who was helping me at the time, was too slow.
Rather, I think that she was pretty fast at it. But all things considered, I was overwhelmingly faster.
It's most likely because I spent so much time grinding back in the game.

……Well, even still, those guys are stilltoo clumsy.
Only collecting 6kg after a whole day, and with three people……

「By the way Hitto-nyan. If you're going to keep earning rewards then nyai (why) don't you use the bank -nyari?」

Hmm? Bank? The catgirl suddenly asked that type of question but…… a bank huh.
Banks were something that existed back in the game as well. In the game, after you died and are revived at the Church, half of the money you were holding would be lost as part of the resurrection.
But if you left your money in a bank then there was no problem. The money you deposited could also be withdrawn from any bank in any city as well.
Since there were no real downsides to it, many people used banks.

But are they really necessary in this world? Is what I thought but…… It's more

like they are essential now. In this world that has become real, you never know what could happen after all.
The frequency of crimes like theft and pickpocketing are greater than in the game so there's a high possibility that an incident might happen.

Of course I have no plans to fall for something like that, but I can't say that it absolutely won't happen.
I'm pretty much depending entirely on the Magic Bag after all.
The fact that Melissa is carrying it right now makes it all the more probableto being targeted.
So I'm not against the idea of depositing money into the bank, but I'm curious as to why I'm hearing about it at the Guild of all places.

「I'm fine with using the bank but, why is it that someone at the Adventurer's Guild is telling me this?」(Hitto) Speaking my mind, I bluntly asked the catgirl.
Hearing that, her ears shook about as she held up her index finger.

「Well nya know. It's because the Adventurer's Guild and the Bank cooperating with each other -nyari. Nyat's (That's) why you can sign up for the Bank here at the Guild. It's possible for the Guild to deposit your rewards from requests directly into the Bank -nyari. Furthermore you can withdraw from the bank just by showing them your adventurer's license-nyan. It's convenient -nyan.」

Fumu……I see, so it's like that. That certainly is convenient.

「Is it possible to withdraw the money here at the Guild?」(Hitto)
「That's not possible -nyan」

Well, that's to be expected. But being able to deposit here is already enough convenience.

「Can I deposit more than just the reward?」(Hitto) 「No Problem -nyan. You can deposit as much as ya like -nyan」

「I see, then——」(Hitto) The amount of money I need right now… Well, we should be fine with a leftover sum of 73,333 Gold. It would reduce the amount of money we're carrying too.

「Adding together the reward from this time, I would like to deposit a total of 1 million. Is that alright?」(Hitto) Once I said it, 'NYAN!?' her ears spiked up and

she let out a loud voice along with a surprised expression.

「O-Of course you can -nyari! That sure was startling -nyan. You're very generous -nyan」

Even if you say generous… I'm just depositing it you know.

「Are there any forms I need to fill out?」(Hitto)「It's fine -nyan. We can use the same information we got from when you registured at the Guild -nyan」

……Is that really alright? Well I guess it can't be helped. If they asked me about my personal information that came from a different world then I wouldn't know what to say anyways.Besides, it isn't like I put down any information that would cause anytrouble later.

「In any case, the assessment is now over huh」(Hitto)「That's right -nyan. Since we're already here, if there's anything you want to ask then I'll answer you're questions -nyan. But my Three Sizes are a secret -nyan」

No,I ain't asking that.Aah, but.

「Now that I think about it, I never asked your name」(Hitto)「I guess so ~nyan. The name's 'Nyanko' -nyan」(Nyanko) ……Guess it fits.

「Ya findit cute-nyan?」(Nyanko) Even if you do a cat pose like that… Normally she would be called cute but once she opens her mouth there's a few things getting in the way of that.
No, she's talking about her name huh.

「Well, it's cute ain't it?」(Hitto)「Nyan! But if you want to make me yours then it won't be that simple nya know」(Nyanko) She said it while brightly smiling but I don't plan on doing that so everything is OK.

「Leaving that aside, since I'm here I might as well ask. Are there other places similar to the Aloe Forest?」(Hitto)「Muu, somehow it seems like you're dodging the subject -nyan. Fine -nyan. Well then, what do you mean by other places -nyan?」(Nyanko)「Ah, I mean are there any places where people are scrambling to collect Nankou Grass and hunt monsters」(Hitto)「So like that -nyan. The Aloe Forest is special -nyan. Since the requests there for Beginner and Amateur rank adventurers are relatively easy, the Forest is particularly bad -nyan」(Nyanko)「So it isn't like that at other places?」(Hitto)「Das right -nyan. The number of

adventurers has been increasing since the feudal lord changed -nyan. Everyone's working hard, but they're desperate -nyan. But with so many new adventurers the number of Beginner and Amateur rank ones become inflated -nyan」(Nyanko) It increased quite a bit huh……Well, maybe they thought that being an adventurer would be simple and easy.

「But being an adventurer isn't all sunshine and roses right? Being exposed to danger is part of the job right?」(Hitto) 「That's right -nyan. Previously there were serveral Amateur adventurers who tried to take on monsters of a higher level -nyan. They thought they could earn some money, even if it was only a little -nyan. But, it turns out that it was too early for them -nyan. Most of them died and the surviving party members said that they would never be adventurers again. It would be better to say that they earnestly went back to having normal everyday lives -nyan」(Nyanko) I see. It's true that in places like the Aloe Forest there should be nothing but non-dangerous monsters there.

「And then, that rumor quickly spread amongst the adventurers, especially to those who were Amateur and below -nyan. It spread at an extremely fast rate -nyan. Since then, less adventurers have tried something so reckless for fear of their own lives -nyan」(Nyanko) And the result of that was the Aloe Forest huh. But in that case.

「But will you be able to increase your rank if you only go hunting monsters in that Forest?」(Hitto) 「Of course it's difficult -nyan. That's why, even though there is an excess of below Amateur people, the number of above Amateur rank adventurers hasn't increased much -nyan. But because of that, there is always a scramble for the Amateur and below requests -nyan. It's true nyat (that) there are many Amateur and below requests available butthat number is not infinite-nyan. In the end it makes it harder for you to raise your rank -nyan. At this Guild, most of the adventurers think that it's good enough if they reach the rank of Manager -nyan」(Nyanko) Fumu.I guess that is why those Three Green Stars were acting so arrogant.
Regardless of their method, being able to reach Manager rank was an impressive thing after all.

「But if Hitto-nyan keeps going like this then I think you'll be able to reach the upper ranks -nyan. Nyanko's hunches are pretty accurate nya know」(Nyanko)

Well I’m happy that you think that way, and I planned on doing that as well. Rather, listening to our conversation just now makes me think that ranking up might not be that difficult.

However…… ranks huh. I suddenly remembered about that man.

「Hey… Do you know an adventurer by the name of Zak?」(Hitto) 「!? W-Why do you know that name -nyan!」(Nyanko) Well, even if you ask me, why are yousnapping a question at me instead.
But, her expression gave off a feeling of grimace.
This is, so he really was the troublesome type huh?

TL note:I feel like I drastically changed how Nyanko talks but w/e. Author sort of did that too with all the -nyari/-nyan.

1.

TL Note:Nyanko is a generic name for cats. Think of it like calling a cat “Kitty”.

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Chapter 25 “Slave Destroyer, Zak”

「I just happened to meet him, you see. Everyone was strangely obedient to him so I was just wondering」(Hitto) For now let’s explain my curiosity while avoiding talking about that ruckus from yesterday.
Either way, if Zak was preparing something in secret then he should easily be able to find out why I am.
But based on her reaction it doesn’t seem to be that way.

「Is nyat so. But, I think you’re better of nyot knowing -nyan……」(Nyanko) 「What, is he dangerous or something?」(Hitto) 「Honestly speaking, he’s dangerous -nyan. That mans is pretty well-known even without the nickname of “The Slave Destroyer, Zak” -nyan」(Nyanko) 「Slave Destroyer?」(Hitto) I unknowingly furrowed my eyebrows as I repeated those disturbing words.

「Yes -nyan…… Slaves are to be treated as livestock;people should use them as tools. That is how most people see them -nyan」(Nyanko I have absolutely no idea why that is common belief though. My mood was soured but if I complain about it then the conversation won’t precede so I decided to ignore it.

「But that man Zak… he is someone famous for taking that belief to the extremes. So far he’s purchased hundreds of slaves to serve him; but even so, none of them last very long. Most of them become ‘broken’ after 10 days -nyan. And once they break he goes out and buys a replacement…… If he only tortured his own slaves like that then it would be fine, but Zak speaks out about how other people treat their slaves as well -nyan. If someone else’s slave gets on his slightest nerve then he breaks them as well, and if their master complains to Zak then he will get violent with them too -nyan」(Nyanko) ……It’s like, the more I heard about him themore outrageous he seems.

「But recently he’s been bragging that he got his hands of a pretty sturdy slave. I heard he’s gotten just a tiny bit better since then -nyan. But, even so, you should try your best not to get involved with him. Especially for Hitto-nyan, you would watch where you step and try to avoid him -nyan」(Nyanko) Yeah, I appreciate your concerns but it’s already too late for that.

Wait, when you say “sturdy”…… Do you mean that slave Seira? She’s the only one who comes to mind.

「Why is especially bad for me? Is it because I’m with Melissa?」(Hitto) 「Das right -nyan. I don’t think Hitto-nyan is the type of person who would treat his slaves like a typical slave-owner -nyan. It’s quite unusual so there’s been rumors spreading about you in the Guild -nyan. Although, Nyanko doesn’t really know what they’ve been saying, but it’s bad if Zak hears -nyan. That man want’s slaves to be treated as less than people no matter what -nyan. If he sees the way Hitto-nyan treats slaves then he, without a doubt, will get involved with you -nyan」(Nyanko) Yup, you’re absolutely right. He splendidly got involved with me.

「But why is a guy like that working as an adventurer? From what I’ve heard, isn’t he Expert rank?」(Hitto) 「That is quite the opposite, it would be better to say that we suppressed his rank at Expert -nyan. Purely based on his abilities, I’ve heard he should be within the Specialist ranks -nyan. But he is too much of a troublesome person -nyan. Although we’ve only been focusing on the way he treats slaves, but in reality he’s doing other things that are even more immoral and shady -nyan」(Nyanko) 「In that case it’s even more strange that he’s still an adventurer. Can’t you just expel him or at least give him some kind of harsh punishment based on the circumstances?」(Hitto) 「……Hitto-nyan, a word of advice -nyan. It’s fine since you said it here, but make sure to never ever say that outside -nyan. The higher upshave good ears -nyan. To begin with, the people who get their slaves broken and suffer great injuries, they never confess that Zak was the one to do it -nyan. There isn’t even a damage report -nyan. Because of that, the Guild can’t do anything about these incidents -nyan. Truth is that there are other incidents like unnatural deaths and disappearances, but since there’s no proof we can’t do anything about it -nyan」(Nyanko) Basically it’s a never ending cycle…… Or rather, even though he’s clearly a “black” existence, since there’s no evidence he’s been labeled as “grey” huh.

「Also one more thing, this is the most important part -nyan. Zak has a troublesome person backing him -nyan. From the rumors it seems like an earl from East Arts is supporting him -nyan. In other words, if you go against Zak then it’s pretty much the same as defying the earl too -nyan」(Nyanko) ……I see.
Still, dealing with nobles is truly a troublesome deal huh.

「That's why Hitto-nyan should seriously be on the look out -nyan. I've heard that among the adventurers that incur Zak's anger many of them end up being 'erased' -nyan」(Nyanko) 「…… Yea, I'll be careful. Incidentally, has Zak made this city his base of operations?」(Hitto) 「That's not entirely correct -nyan. He basically wanders around with complete freedom -nyan. But I've heard that if his backer gives the order then there will be a lot of movements in the shadows -nyan」(Nyanko) What do you mean by 'in the shadows'…… Well, for now it seems like he isn't restricted to being in just this city huh. Is he doing something to try and find me? If he was then there should be some kind of indication of it but… I feel like anything has happened yet.

Well, even if I worried about it nothing will change. The city is large so if I'm careful about things then it should be fine.
To begin with, we don't have the time to move to a different city anyways. We have to prioritize making Melissa my official slave first.

Still, if Melissa heard all of this then she would only worry about it.
Just in case, I had Nyanko check if Zak was outside or not and then I left the room.

「Thank you for you're hard word, Goshujin-sama. Did the request end up going well?」

When I returned to the Guild counter, Melissa greeted me with a brimming smile.
Her joyful smile really is soothing.
Looks like nothing bad happened when I was gone.

「Yea, it was quite the haul. Melissa was also trying her best after all」(Hitto) 「I didn't do anything so praiseworthy——」(Melissa) Melissa shyly waved her hand in denial. But, the edges of your smile gives it away you know.
Being modest like this is one of Melissa's good points though.

「Yo, if it ain't the guy from yesterday. Is this girl a companion of yours?」

「Eh? Oh, Mob-san」(Hitto) I was wondering who it was but turns out it was Mob-san who taught me many things yesterday. We meet often huh. Although, it's only the second time.

「Oh, so this gentleman is one of Goshujin-sama's acquaintances」(Melissa) 「Yea, Since I'm still a newcomer he thought me a couple of things」(Hitto) 「Eh? Goshujin-sama as well? As a matter of fact,He has graciously been instructing me in various ways as well」(Melissa) Hmm? So that's how it was. That's why he was so close nearby.

「I've got nothing better ta do after all. Even though we've only talked about a few things, this girl's got a pretty good memory ya know. Ya sure you don't wana be an adventurer? 」(Mob) 「No, for the moment I am only just an onlooker. But there may come a day where I register as one as well.When that day comes, I would be glad if you could once again instruct me」(Melissa) 「Quit it with the whole "instructing" business. My 'teaching' ain't that much of a big deal ya know. Well, if ya want to know something them come and ask me any time.Oh, damn, I've got to get going soon. Well, seeya later」(Mob) And with that, Mob once again headed out to somewhere.

「He is a kind gentleman isn't he, Mob-san is」(Melissa) He sure is, even though he's a 'Mob'.

「Well then Melissa. It's about time we had some lunch. You must be starving by now right?」(Hitto) 「Yes! Goshujin-sama. Ah, by the way, have you also finished talking about that situation as well?」(Melissa) Hmm? "That situation"? What's that mean? I was a bit lost in though trying to figure out what it was. But noticing my condition, Melissa reminded me.

「The situation with Dowan-san who we sold equipment to yesterday. If I remember correctly, he should have sent in a request regarding what happened——」(Melissa) Dowan……OH, that's right! That was close. With everything that's been happening I had completely forgot about that.
Melissa even showed me her memo pad, we've really been saved by it.

I headed towards the counter and requesting for Nyanko we started our discussion.

「Dowan from the equipment store -nyari?」(Nyanko) 「Yeah. We confirmed the request when we visited his store yesterday. I seems like he wanted to request that I bring him some iron ore and some magical fire stones and earth stones, but I wanted to know why we haven't been contacted at all by himyet」(Hitto)

When I asked her, she looked puzzled. From the shelf, she grabbed the request book which was held together by string and started flipping through it but——

「Das weird -nyari. I don't think a request like that came in -nyan. Did he really send out a request -nyani?」(Nyanko) 「It's troubling if you ask me, you know. I'm only asking to confirm the request」(Hitto) 「Hmmm~ I guess that's true -nyari. In that case, wait just a moment -nyan」(Nyanko) And so, Nyanko headed behind the counter. It seems like she went to double-check it with another receptionist.

「Looks like nothing came in-nyan. Hitto-nyan, if you can please go and ask the person who sent the request what happened -nyan. Also, if Hitto-nyan would like to take that request then it's fine if you take it to the ticket window yourself -nyan」(Nyanko) 「Huh? Me? Is it fine for me to do that?」(Hitto) 「It's fine -nyan. Besides, we always welcome the business of adventurers -nyan. If you accept jobs on your own then your evaluation will also go up -nyan. Ah, but don't go doing jobs without telling the Guild -nyan. Be careful -nyan」(Nyanko) 'Business' huh…… I guess some people see it that way.

I was a bit surprised by it but, well, I just went with the flow and accepted the request.
I was also given a blank request form.It seems like if I fill out the form and get a proper signature and stamp then it will be accepted as official.

Wait, they even have stamps?……Well, the game also had a stamp feature so I guess it isn't too far-fetched——

Well, for the time being me and Melissadiscussed it and decided that we should have a meal first.
After all, hunger was getting the best of me as well. Dowan did said that he would be all right for a bit longer.
First thing's first, time for lunch (although the 'time' was already past 2 in the afternoon).

Chapter 26 “The Circumstances with an Other World Bank”

We chose an appropriate place to have our lunch. There were lots of stylish restaurants alongside the main street on the southern part of the capital after all.

So, when we entered the restaurant, maybe because she had gotten used to it, Melissa naturally sat in a chair on the opposite side of the table from me.
And just as naturally, the waitress who came to take our order also gave us a strange look.

Since this place offered a lunch special I ordered two of them.
And to that ‘Eh? Will it be Two orders?’ she asked as if maybe she heard itwrong.
But to that I answered ‘This is how I do things’ and used my eyes to say ‘Don’t question it any further’.

Perhaps Buddha finally heard my prayers, the girl simply wore a smile on her face as she went back into the kitchen.

「Goshujin-sama is truly amazing」(Melissa) 「Hmm? Why is that?」(Hitto) 「Well……」(Melissa) With that, Melissa gave a fleeting glance towards the other tables.
Ahh, I see. Looks like we’ve attracted some curious gazes.
Is it amazing that they didn’t bother me at all?

「There’s no point in being bothered by their stares each and every time. Does it bother you, Melissa?」(Hitto) 「No. Rather, I glad that I am so blessed」(Melissa) Melissa wore a smile that was like a blooming flower. Yeah~ if she had to show me that smile while sitting down on the floor… Since I consider her a comrade there’s no way I’d let her be likethat.

Afterwards, while sipping on the water the waitress brought, I had a Q&A session with Melissa.
Apparently she was very interested in how she did in our fight versus thatadventurer bunch from earlier.

But from my point of view there wasn’t anything special to comment on. She

did exactly what I told her to,after all.
I even had her stop right before delivering the finishing blow.
I don't want Melissa getting used to murdering so I told her such beforehand.
I said it would be good enough as long as she could stop their movements.

Well, nonetheless she still kept asked me about a bunch of things and I painstakingly answered them. Eventually I fired back and asked 'Instead of talking about combat, is Melissa knowledgeable about medicinal herbs and such?"

So then she told me that her previous owner had ordered her to read books about herbs.
Apparently it was to expand his business to include things like compounding herbs into medications.
But since he felt that learning all that himself would be troublesome, it seems that he figured that it would work out somehow if he had Melissa learn them instead.

In the end he never fulfilled that dream and ended up dying, but maybe that Tornelo guy also thought that Melissa might make a good Drugger.

Well, rather than a Drugger I think she would be more well-suited as a Checker or maybe even a Smith. Although, Melissa doesn't seem to have an atmosphere befitting of blacksmiths.
Well in that case I guess we should see if she's fit to be a Drugger.
We have a little bit of Nankou Grass leftover anyways.
If we find any other herbs then I should hold onto them and have Melissa test them later after I finish purchasing her.

In addition, making medicine from herbs was a very important duty. In the game, herbs were treated as simple items so they were pretty low in effectiveness.
Medicines also had a wide variety of types. Although, despite other RPGs having them, there were no convenient potions in the game that instantly healed all injuries after drinking them.

After all, the game did not have any indication whatsoever of numerical health values so you had to assess injuries based on appearance alone.

Moreover it was common practice to bandage up injured areas after applying ointment to it.

As such, healing magic was seen as an all-purpose fix, but even still the long healing time left a lotto be desired.
In short, healing was never instant.
If you suffered a grave injury then you would be immobilized while healing magic is being cast on you. That's why Supports were considered absolutely essential.

You could also receive healing at the Church but it costed quite the large amount of Gold.

But in this game you not only had to look out for injuries but you also had to be aware of poison.
Although they're called poisons they includepoisons that slowly drain your health and poisons that applied status effects.
From giving you a simple stomachache, to other poisons that caused you to bleed nonstop or paralyzed you. There were evenpeculiar poisons like a petrifying poison.

Poison even included trivial things such as colds and other illnesses, and in order to cure them you had to rely on the use of medicines to a certain extent.
There were also antidote-like healing magics but you had to match the spell and the illness orelse it won't be very effective. There were only a few spells that could cure all poisons and likewise there were few basic classes that could deal with poisons.

But if you were a Drugger, even though it was a basic Job, if you raised your proficiency high enough then you could make a wide array of medicines.
It was already plenty convenientthat Druggers could create medicines on the spot as long as they had the raw materials for it.

「Sorry to keep you waiting」

Oh, looks like the food came while I was busy thinking about these things huh.
I guess we should eat for now——

「Thank you for the meal, Goshujin-sama」(Melissa) Since Melissa turned to me

and deeply bowed her head, I waved my right hand to show that she didn't need to do that.
It seems that since slaves pretty much never get to eat fresh meals that aren't just scraps, she looked really overjoyed.
Well, I'm honored that you feel so delighted.

But as for the taste, well, I would say it was neither great nor terrible though.
I guess you can say it had no faults. To me it was on the level of family restaurants from my world.
Although, it might be amazing that we're able to eat a meal on level of a family restaurant in the first place.

During our meal Melissa and I continued to talk about a few things, but it seems that the seasonings of this world have a strange relationship to the ones in my original world.

For instance, they did have miso, but they didn't use soybeans and koji-mold to make it. Instead they use parts of a monster's brain to produce it.
When I first heard that I wanted to gag, but thinking about it again I remembered that there were dishes from my world that used the brains of a sheep as ingredients.
Considering that, I guess it wasn't too big of a deal.

Also it seems that salt and sugar go by their English names of "Salt" and "Sugar". Melissa had no idea what I was talking about whenI said it in kanji as "shio" and "satou".
But their names were "Salt" and "Sugar" back in the game so I guess that's to be expected.

There was no soy sauce but to make up for it there were a wide variety of other sauces, and among them was one pretty close to soy sauce.
Since the game used Japan as a basis to begin with, leaving aside the small differences, most of the flavors fit the tastes of a Japanese person. Although I have to say "Rice" in English or else no one will understand me.

Well, by comparison the word "wheat" is said in Japanese as "mugi" for some reason.
It's pointlessto becaught up in the minor details though.

Anyways, we finished our meals and were sipping on the rich black tea that came as an after-meal service. As I was thinking about what our next plans should be-

「By the way, Goshujin-sama. Exactly how much was the reward for the request?」(Melissa) Melissa suddenly asked that question. Now that I think about it we never talked about the details huh.

「Yea, we collected more than I thought. In total we got 162,850 Gold you know」(Hitto) 「That much!? That is amazing, Goshujin-sama」(Melissa) Melissa's eyes opened wide and she was thoroughly surprised. But, well, it's to be expected.

「Thanks to that our funds now exceed 1 million. If we continue at this pace then we might not make it by tomorrow but we should get the 1.5 million needed to buy you relatively soon」(Hitto) I turned to Melissa and gave her a warm smile as I said that. Sort of as a way to tell her that everything will be fine and not to worry.

「Goshujin-sama…… I am truly blessed to have Goshujin-sama go so far just to purchase me.I honestly believe that my meeting with Goshujin-sama is just like a miracle」(Melissa) 'You're over-exaggerating', I replied with a laugh.
'No, it's true!' her slightly annoyed reply was also pretty cute.

「But, in that case then we must do all we can to strictly guard this Magic Bag. It would be terrible if someone stole it」(Melissa) 「Ah, well about that, we should be prepared for the worst possible situations when it comes to the money. So that's why I deposited it with the bank」(Hitto) 「Eh?」(Melissa) Hmm? When I told Melissa about the bank she gave a short answer. Are you dumbfounded or something?

「Goshujin-sama, to the bank? Eh? When did you?」(Melissa) 「Yea. The Adventurer's Guild and the Bank are cooperating with each other you see. They said that it could be deposited right away so I had them do it for me」(Hitto) 「…… How much was deposited?」(Melissa) 「Hmm? I deposited 1 million Gold. The only thing left is enough for our necessities」(Hitto) Wait, what? Why are your shoulders shaking and your eyes turning into circles?

「Uhh,mmm. With all due respect, Goshujin-sama. But, A-Are you familiar with

how the Bank works?」(Melissa) Why are you asking such a strange question. It should work the same as in the game right?

「Of course I know. It's the place where you deposit money right? You leave it there for safekeeping and withdraw it when you like so that you don't have to worry about it being stolen. As long as we have enough left over for necessities then we should be——」(Hitto)「AAH,AAaAH,UAAAaaAH!I AM TERRIBLY SORRY, GOSHUJIN-SAMAAAA～～～～!」(Melissa) EEEEEEH!? What'sgoing on! You don't have to prostrate yourself on the table and apologize all of a sudden, you know!

「What's wrong all of a sudden, Melissa! Why are you apologizing?」(Hitto)「Uu,UuuUu,F-For not properly explaining it before to you, I-I AM TERRRRIBLY SORRRRRRY～～～～!」(Melissa)「Wait! Like I said, Why is that!? Please explain it to me!」(Hitto) What the hell happened to make you cry like that!?

「*Ss-sniff* Uuu Goshujin-sama. Before the bank worked exactly as Goshujin-sama described, a place where you can freely deposit and withdraw your money…… But now, with the new feudal lord in control, the banking system has undergone a drastic change……」(Melissa) Hmm, a change?

「So what of it? Can you explain what exactly changed about it?」(Hitto)「Yes……For example, the interest rate system was exchanged for a new one……」(Melissa) Interest rates? In that case then there shouldn't be any real problems right?

「You mean that? In that case it should be fine. Even if it's just by a little bit, that still means that the interest would increase our bank balance」(Hitto)「!? THAT'S NOT RIGHT AT ALL, GOSHUJIN-SAMA! Interest is the portion of your bank account that the Bank charges you for their services!」(Melissa) ……HUH!? What!

「What the hell!? What are you saying? I've never heard of interest being money that's taken out of your account!」(Hitto)「Yes…… It's true that I have heard that this system is not used in other territories. Since the Bank in taking care of your money, they charge this 'interest' as part of their services. That's why it's called 'interest-rates'——」(Melissa)「Fua!? Haa? W-WHAT THE HELL! That's fking stupid! How much do they charge anyways?」(Hitto)「Yes…… The

interest rate is charged once every 6 months and is equal to 50% of your bank balance……」(Melissa) ……W-What?

Chapter 27 “We Have No Money!”

「50% Every 6 Months!?」

In my hysteria I unintentionally let out a crazed cry.
In addition to the people already looking at us because of my treatment of slaves, that cry drew even more attention to us.
Melissa was in a panic saying, “P-Please Calm Down, Goshujin-sama!” and trying to control the situation.

But, Like hellcan I stay calm right now!

「50% means that they take half of the entire balance right!? And every 6 months means that the whole damn thing will be gone in a year! Who the hell would use a bank like that!?」(Hitto) I somewhat feel like I accidentallylet my tone become more rough. But I realized that Melissa was giving me a concerned look so I was somehow able to calm down a bit.

「It is just as Goshujin-sama says. I don’t believe there is anyone who would want to use the bank as it is now」(Melissa)「Of course, Melissa. I’m thinking of heading over to the bank right this moment and withdrawing the entire account’s worth. Seriously, what kind of sick joke is this」(Hitto)「……Goshujin-sama, it is already too late to do that. Once money has been deposited into this territory’s bank then there is a restriction of only being able to withdraw 10% of your account balance every month」(Melissa)「Wha-!?」(Hitto) I was at a loss for words. Only being able to withdraw 10% each month… Is this country filing for bankruptcy or some shit!?

「What the hell! If it’s like you say then no one in their right mind would ever deposit money in that bank!」(Hitto)「Yes. That is why if you are affluent to a certain degree then you will receive an mandatory decree that forces you to deposit money into the bank. If you ignore that decree then you will be issued a fine or, depending on the circumstances, you might be sentenced to a severe punishment」(Melissa)「A, a mandatory decree?What the hell……I don’t get it at all. In the first place, if you made a decree like that then there’s no way the nobles would stay quiet about it, right?」(Hitto)「That is… a select portion of

nobles are given preferential treatment and “interest rates” are not applied to them. The amount they can withdraw is not restricted either. On top of being able to withdraw and deposit money as much as they like, they are also given the maximum priority and have their requests expedited. In addition, if those nobles become associated with the bank then a portion of the annual “interest rate” collection will be distributed among them」(Melissa) D-Damn it! Nobles getfavorable treatment even in times like this!

「As such, relatively high ranking nobles proactively utilize the bank. I doubt that the current banking system will overturned in the near future」(Melissa) Of course it won’t. Those nobles want to keep sucking on the sweet nectar of the current system after all.

「Shit! This whole situation is completelyidiotic! Basically you’re saying that in 6 months only half of my money will be left!?」(Hitto) 「…… About that, Goshujin-sama…Our conversation earlier about the “interest rate” being taken every 6 months was only a figure of speech to help better explain the bank’s operations. That “6 months” does not take into account the day you first deposit funds. More specifically the “interest rate” is taken out of your account on the 4th and 10th months……」(Melissa) …… At this point, something like that doesn’t even surprise me.

「So then, Melissa. What month is it now?」(Hitto) Ipretty much asked just to double check.

「It is the 4th month, April」(Melissa) 「So it really is April…… For now we should be fine until the 10th month, October, huh. But still, damn it! Let’s hurry up and go back to the Guild for now」(Hitto) 「Umm, Goshujin-sama…… Since the “interest rate” is collected on the 4th month, in the case that you deposit money during this month… Th-then, it has been arranged that the amount you deposit will have half of it’s total automatically deducted during the transaction——」(Melissa) 「!?」

What the fuck! Damn it, I’m starting to get a headache from all this——

「Melissa! We’re leaving immediately! We might still make it in time!」(Hitto) 「O-Okay!」(Melissa)

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「The money that you left earlier -nyari? Don't worry -nyan. It was deposited into the bank a while ago -nyan」
「STOP FUCKING WITH MEEEEEE～～～～～～！」
「Nya!? What'snya matter～～～～～～！」

I suddenly found myself grabbing Nyanko by the collar. Well of course!

「YOU BITCH!WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE INTEREST RATES! AND ABOUT THE WITHDRAW LIMITATIONS TOO!」(Hitto) 「Nya!? Nyanya! T-That's just common knowledge -nyan! I thought everyone knew that -nyan!」(Nyanko) 「Didn't I say that I was a traveler! How the fuck would I know that!」(Hitto) 「Nyaaaan, It hurts -nyan! First let go of me -nyan! Anymore and it will become a problem -nyan!」(Nyanko) 「Go-Goshujin-sama……」(Melissa) Fuck! Melissa also had a concerned look in her eyes…… Damn it! It's true that there was no point in just complaining to Nyanko right now.
But still, for the money to be already deposited in the back a long time ago, Why is that the only fucking thing that get's done quickly around here! In that case I won't even be able to use Cancel!

「*Fu-nyan*. Is there even a reason to be so mad in the first place -nyan? It's certainly unusual to suddenly deposit such a large amount -nyan, but that is money that you will have to eventually deposit anyways -nyan. No matter who, alladventurers use the bank after all -nyan」(Nyanko) 「Haa? Don't be stupid! If you don't say how much money you have then how the hell would anyone else know. Who in their right mind would deposit money!」(Hitto) 「Even still, they make deposits -nyan. Like I said before, the Guild and the Bank are intertwined together in cooperation -nyan. Nyat's why the bank has a general idea of how much each individual adventurer earns -nyan. The Guild isn't involved with the entire depositing process, but if an adventurer doesn't make any deposits into their account then eventually a legal claim will be sent their way -nyan」(Nyanko)
A legal claim?

「What the hell is this "legal claim"?」(Hitto) 「Basically it means that the money that adventurer earns from now on will be directly collected by the bank as "interest rate". The bank conducts detailed examinations of bank accounts several times throughout the year -nyan. If they find out than an adventurer hasn't been making deposits then they will issue a "claim" for that amount -

nyan.In that situation the “claimed” amount will obviously be 100% of what is earned; basically they will take everything -nyan」(Nyanko) 「……A-Are you serious?」(Hitto) 「Whether I’m serious or not, that is how the system works -nyan. That’s why adventurers, or rather, pretty much everyone with an account withdraws the maximum amount of 10% each month -nyan. Since the system eventually takes away half of the total account, if they do this then burden of “interest rates” will be somewhat lessened -nyan」(Nyanko) For some reason I lost the strength in my legs and fell down on the spot. If you don’t deposit money then all your earning for a year will be confiscated? What the hell is that. It’s completely messed up. Whoever thought of this must be completely insane……

「……I can’t withdraw from my account here at the Guild right?」(Hitto) 「As I mentioned before, that isn’t possible -nyan. In the first place, if we did that then We wouldbe the ones with the short end of the stick -nyan. Even for the bank, processing the withdraw requests takes them at the very least about 10 days -nyan」(Nyanko) 「T-Ten days?」(Hitto) 「Das right -nyan. If you don’t withdraw you’re money then the bank will take 50% every 6 months -nyan. That’s why it’s inevitable that everyone want’s to at least withdraw 10% -nyan. Because of that, there are constantly people flooding in line to the bank -nyan. But, there is a limit to how many people the bank can process in a single day -nyan. So if you want to visit the bank they will probably hand you a ticket number instead -nyan. The wait to get in your request usually takes approximately 10 days -nyan」(Nyanko) It’sa bit scary that I’m no longer surprised by something like that.

「You have to be careful though because 10 days is only an estimate -nyan. If the bank calls your number and you don’t respond then they will mercilessly skip over you -nyan. If that happen’s then you’ll have to wait a whole ‘nother 10 days -nyan」(Nyanko) 「That’s enough already, I get it…… Sorry for shouting at you earlier——」(Hitto) 「Hitto-nyan. Don’t be so sad -nyan. It was actually a good thing that you deposited it nya know. Among the adventurers there are a few obstinate ones who refuse to deposit money. As a result they have all their assets seized and get sent into debt, many of them end up falling into slavery -nyan. Once you fall into slavery everything is miserable -nyan. You become victim to the Slave Guild for the rest of your life -nyan」(Nyanko) I turned to her with a look of disgustand said that Melissa had already told me about that before.

Nyanko's shoulders started to quiver. And even at a time like this, I could see her chest jiggling as she shook.

…… Nyanko was more or less looking out for me so I have no right to complain——

While only saying "Sorry to bother you", Melissa and I left the Guild.
On our way out I asked Melissa if we could head to the bank and reserve and appointment, but-

「Goshujin-sama…… The bank is only open until3 o'clock in the afternoon——」(Melissa) Why isTHATthe only thing that works the same as it does in my world!

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Although I was honestly still pretty shaken, it still wouldn't be good to stop moving forward. Despite the shock, we went pay a visit to Dowan like we had originally planned.

The purpose was to learn what happened to the request. Also, if I sat around idling then I probably only become more irritated.

「So it's just as we've told you, it seems like the request didn't get through to the Guild. Do you remember who at the Guild you left the request with?」(Hitto)
「No, I didn't directly go and request the Guild ya know. I had an adventurer used to come here often send it in for meh. Theysaid they would also take that same request after all」(Dowan) An adventurer? Now that you mention it, Nyanko did say that "business was always welcome" huh.
But, saying he "used" to come has got me curious……

「Does that adventurer not come here anymore?」(Hitto)「Come to think of it I haven't seen 'em ever since then huh」(Dowan) Dowan stroked his beard as he said that.

「Ano…… Perhaps, did you give them the commissionbeforehand, Dowan-san?」(Melissa) Melissa furrowed her brow in concern. True, I was also curious about that though.

「Of course not. I ain't dat stupid ya know. I've heard that sometimes half the commission is payedup front, but in that case a Guild employee give an official

price quote afterwards」(Dowan) Melissa sighed a deep breathe of relief.
Well, I'm a bit relieved too but that still leaves the question, why did the first adventurer not deliver the request properly? Did they forget to hand it into the Guild?

「Do you remember the name of that adventurer?」(Hitto) 「He said his name was Ragna. He's a fellow with wide lookin' eyes. He didn't look like he was particularly fishy though. He even bought acouple of things off me as well」(Dowan) Fumu, I'm getting even more confused. Melissa immediately started jotting it down in her memo pad though.

「Well, I'm sorry to trouble you, but can you rewrite the request again? This time I'll make sure it gets to the Guild」(Hitto) 「Hmm? Ah, yea. Can't be helped so I'll write it again. I'm counting on ya this time. Well, I still got some stock leftover though」(Dowan) 「Yeah, I'll be sure to deliver it」(Hitto) Saying that, I handed him to blank request form and he filled in the details.
It goes as such.

Request Contents:
・Transporting Iron Ore and Magic Stones
Details
From the Mount Stone Mines
・Iron Ore3kg
・Earth Magic Stone1kg
・Fire Magic Stone 1kg
Please transport these back.
Talk to Dowan for the payment, though you should already know this.

「Thanks. Have you heard about the commission fee?」(Hitto) 「Pretty much. I don't know the full details, but I heard that the person in charge will make a pricequoteand then send it to me.Now that you mention it, I haven't seen any price quotes for it……」(Dowan) …… Well, isn't that because it was never completely processed as an official request?

「If a quote hasn't come in then most likely it isn't being treated as an official request huh. If the request was properly sent in then I'm sure theGuild would have decided on a quoteby now.Well, either way, I'll head over and tell them right away」(Hitto) 「Yea, I'm counting on you. But still, I completely forgot about

the quote huh」(Dowan) You really should pay attention to these things though.

「By the way, will you be the one completing the request?」(Dowan) 「I don't know about that. It's up to the Guild to decide after all」(Hitto) 「I see. Ya seem quite reliable so I would've liked to entrust it to you though」(Dowan) Even if you put it like that……

「Ano, Goshujin-sama. If you fill out this part that says "Designated Person", could you not specific which adventurer you want?」(Melissa) Hmm? Oh yeah, looking at it again there really is a line where you can specific who you want.

「Ah, that reminds me, the last guy toldme write his name down in that designation line too. So that's what it's for」(Dowan) Oi Oi……

「Here, I filled it in. I'll leave the request to you」(Dowan) Saying that, Dowan wrote my name in the designation line and handed me the request form.
Taking it with us, Melissa and I left the store.

But nonetheless, I wonder why that Ragna guy went out of his way to be specified for the request but never ended up turning it in to Guild?

Chapter 28 “The Bad Things Keep On Coming”

「Yo Bro, hold up for a second」

In order to return to the Guild with Dowan’s request, we got on board the wagon. When we did, a voice called out to us from behind.
I sort of have a bad feeling about it, so I told Melissa to stay on the coachman’s seat, and I turned around towards the source of that voice.

When I did I found a trio of three men standing shoulder-to-shoulder.
There was a reasonable amount of space surroundingDowan’s shop, but the roads leading away are pretty narrow so the wagon won’t be able to get past them.

Seriously, guys like these are usually nothing but trouble. To make things worse, their facesmade them look exactly like evil villains.
I’m not entirely sure what they’re up to. You don’t often see other people around these parts after all.
The slums aren’t too far from here so maybe there’s a large number of bad characters because of that.

But still I wonder what to want. Are they going to ask for money? If they ask somethinglike that then let’simmediately Cancel it and save ourselves the trouble.

「By “Bro”, did you mean me?」(Hitto) When they heard my question, the man in the middle took a step forward and opened his mouth.

「Ain’t no one here except you right?」

Well I guess that’s true.

「So, what you want?」(Hitto) From the looks of it they each have short swords on their waists but they aren’t wearing any kind of armor.
They don’t really look like adventurers huh.
They seem more like a bunch of no-good hoodlums.

「Oi Oi, don’t be all scaredy like that. It ain’t like we’re here tasteal a meal off

you, ya know?」

He waved both hands side to side in a joking manner as he said that.

「We all just thought that we'd give ya a warning」

「A warning?」(Hitto) I unknowingly knitted my eyebrows in doubt. What exactly is there to warn me about? Are they going to say that they own this turf or something?

「You guys just came out of that dwarf's store right?」

Hmm?

「Yea, that's right. We came to look at some equipment」(Hitto) For the time being let's just go along with it and give appropriate answers.

「Hold up Bro, are you for real? Seriously, to actually go and buy equipment from that store」
「There's a rumor going around that that store's merchandise is the absolute worst, ya know?Everyone knows that if youbuy the goods here then ya'll be stuck crying over their overpriced and inferior products」

…… Somehow it sounds like they rehearsed those lines beforehand. Feels like they waited for the perfect time to say it together.
Well, I bet it really was rehearsed.

But still, it wasn't an extortion type of scam huh. It seems like their goal is not to harm us, but rather——

「Well it's pretty much like that. So Bro, it's best if you don't buy fromthat store anymore ya hear. Ya shouldn't get equipment repaired here either. According to the rumors, this store is having so much trouble staying afloat that they cut down on the materials they use. They don't do a proper job at all. Ya wouldn't want ta sell stuff at a store that's gonna go bankrupt at any moment. If ya leave your equipment at a store like that then ya never know, maybe they'll just up and disappear the next day, right?」

「Please stop spouting such——」(Melissa) From the coachman's seat, Melissa seemed like she was going to cut into the conversation, so I held out my hand to stop her.

Maybe she understood my intent, but she didn't continue any further than that.

「What's this, you're walking around with quite the cute slave aint'cha」

「Well pretty much. So, is that all you wanted to say?」(Hitto) I more or lessfigured out what these guys were after, and also who was pulling the strings behind the scenes, but, well, I asked in a way that didn't give me away.

「Well yea. We've been going trying to preventpeople from being tricked bythat store. We want to lower the victims of that den of scams. But if you're suddenly told something like that, then you'd be at a loss at which store to go to next time, right?」

「……I guess」(Hitto) 「So das why, instead of going to a damp place like this, you should go to the stores that are around the main street. All the weapon and armor shops over there are affiliated with the Bungle Company.They have a different level of credibility compared to that store run by a filthy dwarf」

…… They really are an easy to understand bunch huh.
In any case, those bad points that they brought up about Dowan's store, I'm sure that they all actually apply to Bungle's stores instead. Except for the financial difficulty one.

Well, I'm basing all of this on what I've heard from Melissa though.
But if you ask me to choose between her words or this dimwitted trio then obviously I would choose to believe Melissa.

Well with that being said let's just obediently nod our head.

「That so. Well, I'll take what you said about the store under consideration. Thanks for the info. Well then, later」(Hitto) Saying that I turnedback and was about to get back on the wagon when.

「Hey wait, hold up a sec Bro. Like we told you the management of that store is bad news. That's why it's best if ya go ahead and rip up that request that ya got from there. We can't have any requests from that store reaching the Guild, right?We'll even dispose of it for ya, so why don'tcha hand it over to us?」

……I see, so it's like that.

I turned around and returning to where I was, I confronted the three again.

「I can understand why you think I'm an adventurer based on my outfit. However, why is it that you think I have a request?」(Hitto)「That's cuz, well, we've got sharp ears ya know」

……One of them is a Thief class huh. No, there's the possibility that all of them are Thiefs.
The reason why I thought this is because there is a Thief skill called "Keen Hearing".
In the game it was a skill that let you do things like figure out if there was someone on the opposite side of a door. However, in this world that skill might also allow you to hear conversations being had behind said door.

If it's a Thief then they could also mask their presence to a certain extent.

「I haven't received anything like a request. Are you sure you're not mistaken?」(Hitto)「It's not good to lie ya know. We're pretty confident that you accepted a request」

「I see. But, even if that was true, I am under noobligation to hand it over to you guys.I willbe the one to decide if it should be disposed of or not」(Hitto)「Oi Oi, are you planning on spitting in the face of our kindness? In that case we've got a couple of ideas of our own ya know?」

Looks like they're finally showing their true colors. At the same time it looks like my assumption that they were Thiefs was correct.
After all——

「Naa!?」

One of the three men let out a surprised cry and with wide open eyes he fell back some distance. At his feet, a knife was stuck in the ground.

「That just now was a warning. What did you plan on doing next after trying to go after my Melissa?」(Hitto) While we were preoccupied with our conversation, one of them activated the skill "Stealth Steps" and tried to slip past me. Were they planning ontaking Melissa as a hostage or something?
Unfortunately for you, I've got much higher abilities.
If they use such a low level skill like that then I'll be able to see through it right

away.

「Tsk.Even through the last guy easily handed it over」

「……By that do you mean Ragna?」(Hitto)「What, so you know the guy? In dat case you should know exactly how foolish of a thing you've done」

It's not like I knew him or anything though. I only heard about him just now from Dowan.

「Cowards who have to resort to taking Melissa hostage, I don't think those words pose much of a threat」(Hitto)「Hmph. That was something we planned to show you at least a little bit of mercy. I didn't think things would have to get serious though——」

As if in response to the man's words, a bunch of guys came out of the shadows from behind several buildings.
In total their numbers were…… I guess they were about 30 guys? The three men also fell back and mixed into the other waves of people.

「G-Goshujin-sama, I shall also lend a hand!」(Melissa)「No, it's all right. I don't want my precious Melissa to get hurt so it's best that you don't. For the time being just sit tight where you are」(Hitto) The wagon was currently located in front of Dowan's store. The groups of men were facing me from upfront, so there was still some distance in between us. If it's like this then they won't be able to reach Melissa who is staying by my side.
Even a Thief wouldn't be able to pass through.

「Hmph, if only you obediently handed over the request, that way you wouldn't have to experience pain」

A guy who seemed like their leader quickly unsheathed the blade on his waist, and he earnestly took a stance in front of me.
From his stance I could tell that he was pretty skilled, the air he carried around him also gave off the feeling of experience.

「Should I say it one more time? If you quietly hand over the request form then you won't get hurt」

「Hell no」(Hitto) I stuck out my tongue as I replied.

「Tsk, In that case we'll take it by force! You lot, get 'em!」

On the man's orders everyone drew their swords all at once. Great, if the situation turns to this then I can legitimately say it was for self-defense.
That's why, my own twin swords—— I did not draw them. From the Magic Bag I pulled out the Heavy Crossbow and braced it against my shoulder.

And thus——a commotion broke out.

「Y-You bastard! What the hell is that!」

「Who knows, why you ask?」(Hitto) I accidentally let a devilish smile surface on my face, and then—— Let's start off with the 1st one, SHOOT!

The moment I pulled the trigger a soothing breeze brushed past my hair, and the fired bolt flew towards the frontlines and bore a hole into a man's chest. It kept on going and pierced another 4 men, it flew straight through the stomachs, hearts, and necks, of a total of 5 men.

And then, once I confirmed that it had finished penetrating through the bunch, I used Cancel on the bolt and it returned back to me.
After all is said and done, the main appeal of this weapon is it's incredibly high piercing power.
That's why when it is paired with my Cancel it becomes a dominating force when it comes to group combat.

「W-What the hell is that weapon! It killed several guys in an instant!」
「D-Don't start panicking! Take a look at that weapon! It's firepower if really high but it is still just a crossbow! After it takes a shot it will take some time to reload the arrow! It can't shoot a second time!」

At the time almost everyone was frozen in astonishment, but after the leader-esque man said those words they were able to regain their composure.

Yeah, that's right. If this was a normal crossbow then I think that logic would work.
But not showing any sympathy for the bunch, I let loose a secondshot.
Another"BAAAANNG!" As if it was the sound of a goodinstrument, about 5 more men fell dead in a pool of blood.

A look of fear and dread spread across their faces.

「H-Hey, what the hell do we do? This guy is definitely dangerous!」

「Kuu! C-Can't be helped! Temporary retreat——」

Haa? Retreat? You must be joking, right? I finally got the just cause of using self-defense too.
Also, at the very least, doing this will cause trouble for the Bank.
As such, there's no way I can let you escape you know!

As the bunch tried to turn their heels and run, I mercilessly continued to Cancel Shoot; the bolts pierced through their heads and guts, esophaguses, and even their nasty assholes.

「HIGIiiIIIiII!!」
「MY ASSSAAaAAaAAaAAAA!」
「FWORGYIEVEAMEEEeEEeEE!」

Unsightly cries of death rang out in this narrow alleyway. Leaving behind only the guy who looked like their leader, I fired off Cancel Shoot 4 more times as the bodies of all the men piled up.
Of course, I left one of them behind on purpose.

「Y-YOU BASTARD! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU!」

The last man left, with his spinebent back he scowledat me with a distorted looking face. It was only him pretending to look tough, I could tell by the way his hips were shaking.

「Nothing much. Just a Beginner adventurer 」(Hitto)「T-That's a fucking lie! J-Just a Beginner ranked adventurer, T-There's no way that's true, No way can you have a weapon like that!」

Oh, this guy. So he thinks its because my Weapon is special huh, I see.

「Why is it that you think you lost because of this weapon? That's fine, have a try」(Hitto) I lowered the crossbow from my shoulder, and told the man while holding nothing in either hand.

「See. How about it? A complete Beginner like me is going to take you one like this. Don't you think you have a tiny chance of winning now?」(Hitto)「F-Fucking looking down on me……」

Looking at my pretty much completely defenseless figure, he quietly mumbled those words. Biting his lip the man glared at me with serious eyes and raised his sword overhead as he approached.
But, I effortlessly undid my opponent's stance with Cancel.
Even though I was defenseless I never said I wouldn't use skills.

「Eh? Na, Wha——」

And as my opponent was still baffled I took out my twin swords, and hit him with a [Fang Slicer].
That should be enough to at least cut off the guys arm.
And sure enough, his right arm that was holding the sword was sent into the air.

「GI,GIuUUeEE”e”E”e”E”E”E”E”e”」

The man let out a scream as he fell down to his knees.
And using his remaining arm, he tried to apply pressure to the spot that where his right arm once was.

「AAa, Guu, aarm, My, arm is……」

「It's pretty impressive that you haven't passed out. But, you know, if you're in a state like that then you can't even fight back. You're nothing but an idiot now」(Hitto)「Ah, gi, S-Spare me, I-I beg you——」

He looked up at me with eyes pleading for his life, but, Fumu——Then, first is.

「In that case, answer my questions. The one who hired you guys was Bungle, right?」(Hitto)「Th-That, I can't-GihIIiIIiiII!」

For the time being I cut off his right ear. This time he placed his remaining hand on the part where his ear used to be, but I continued to point my blade at him.
The current me is really heatedup after all.

「Didn't I say to answer my question? You have no other choicebut to answer you know. Are you stupid? Here, let's have another go, Was the one who hired you Bungle?」(Hitto)「Y-Yeah that's right! Bungle hired us」

「I see. What was hisobjective?」(Hitto)
「I-I have no idea! Hiii! I'm telling the truth!We were only told to lower this shop's

reputation and make sure they can't send out requests!」

Fumu, with the blade pointed at him he's really shaking huh. Hmmm~ doesn't seem like he's lying.

「Were there other's besides you who were hired?」(Hitto)「I-I don't think there's others besides us. If there were then we'd probably end up competing against each other」

I see, that's certainly true. Fumu——

「So? Did you receive your compensation already?」(Hitto)「Th-That is-OWwWWwWww!」

This time I cut intohis left foot with my blade.

「Quit stalling. Just answer」(Hitto)「No! We didn't! We were planning on getting the reward after we finished the job. I'm telling the truth, please spare me」

Tsk! I thought that I might be able to make some money back, but seems like I was too naive……

「H-hey, that's enough right? J-just letme go this one time」

「……Yea, you're right, I'll let you go」(Hitto) The piece of shit let out a deep sigh, seems like he felt relieved.

「That's why, I'll make your death a swift one」(Hitto) Saying that I sliced the neck of that piece of trash. Seriously, didn't I tell you that I was worked up? That being said, with my money all gone my rage is justified.
In the first place, if I let you go then you might just come back a second time looking for revenge.
If that happens then, leaving me aside it, would also cause trouble for Dowan.

……Well, there's plenty of other stuff to focus my attention on though.

Chapter 29 “Searching For an Inn”

「Hey, I just heard a really loud scream, did something happen?」

Oops, I guess if such a loud voice cried out, then you’d expect someone to notice.
Dowan opened up his doorand asked while peeking halfway out.

「Yea, just now we got involved with a bunch of thugs you see. They came at us with weapons so I just gave them a taste of their own medicine.」(Hitto)「……This many people?」(Dowan) Saying that, Dowan fully opened the door and came out.
Fumu, it’s true that this is a large number though.

「When I didn’t give in to their demands they called out their friends. Well, it was legitimate self-defense or something like that」(Hitto)「I see, but still, yur a pretty strong adventurer huh」(Dowan) Well, I can’t deny that.

「But this is still a lot of em. We can’t just leave da bodies lying around here」(Dowan) Dowan pondered as he stroked his beard.
Now that you mention it, this could be a problem——

「Hey, is it possible for you to gathered up the corpses in one place?」(Dowan) Dowan asked me that request, but well, I guess I could.

「If it’s that much then I don’t see a problem with it」(Hitto)「I see. Also, the weapons these guys are carrying, should I buy them off you?」(Dowan) Speaking of which, there’s quite a large number of them huh, quality aside.

「Can I ask that of you? Truth is that I’m a bit low on funds, you see」(Hitto) At any rate, although I had 1 million Gold just a while ago, it’s all been seized by the bank so I have no idea what the hell will happen to it.

「Dat so, in that case——」(Dowan) Saying that Dowan fixed his gaze on their equipment.

「They all look pretty much the same huh. Well, in total I’d guess they’d be around 50,000 Gold, that alright?」(Dowan)「Yea, that really helps」(Hitto) I would be grateful for even a small amount right now.

Dowan went into the store and came back with the Gold.

「Here ya go, that's for the stuff I purchased. Well then, I'll leave it to you to round them all up and then I'll handle the rest later. It's easier to collect them this way after all」(Dowan) Getting straight to the point, Dowan handed me the Gold coins, and he went back into the shop and shut the door.
I would'vebeen good if he stuck around so that I could've told him about what these guys were after though.
Well, I guess that would only cause him to worry for no reason.

Also if the only people hired were these guys, then there probably won't be any ruckus for a while anyways.

Now then, to deal with the corpses… Well, it won't take long. All I have to do is put them in the Magic Bag, and them dump them out later at an appropriate location. Yup, all finished. Now all I have to do is repeat this several times.
……Rather, is he going to casually collect them equipment like this? I guess——Well, it isn't like their corpses will disappear like it did in the game.

Now then, I guess all that's left is to head to the Guild and give them the request form huh.
……Thinking about it, I cut off a lot of arms today huh. Was it three in total? Hopefully I don't get some strange nickname like "Arm Cutter~" or something like that. Please spare me from that.

Thinking of things like that, I got back on the wagon but…… Somehow, Melissa is, why is she just staring blankly? Did something happen?

「……Re no——Na……ssa……」(Melissa) What are you trying to mumble? Are you really alright? Or rather, have you always been absentminded like this?

「Hey, Melissa. Hey~」(Hitto)「Eh!? Ah! G-Goshujin-sama! 」(Melissa)「What's the matter? Were you zoning out? Something happen?」(Hitto)「N,Nonononononono! Nuting! Nnyoting is wrong!」(Melissa) Is that so? You seem to be acting a bit strange though Melissa vigorously shook her head back and forth.

「Are you not feeling well? If something is wrong then make sure to tell me, okay? 」(Hitto)「No, it's not that! It's not that! It's not that! That's not it at all!」(Melissa) Is that so? Well, I guess you certainly seem energetic though.

「Well, if nothing is wrong then that's good though. Anyways, can you take us back to the Adventurer's Guild? I feel sorry for making you go back and forth like this though」(Hitto) 「Please do not feel sorry at all! I will be heading to Goshujin-sama's desired location now!」(Melissa) 「Aah, okay, I'm counting on you」(Hitto) She's really putting in a lot of effort huh.

「Ano, by the way, are you alright, Goshujin-sama?」(Melissa) While driving the wagon, Melisa asked that as she lowered her eyebrows looking a bit worried.
She must be talking about earlier.

「Yea, it wasn't much of a problem. I wasn't injured at all either」(Hitto) At any rate, I pretty much gave them all death after all.
Still, it would be best if I kept the information relating to Bungle in the corner of my mind for now.

「Is that so. That's good…… A-And, umm」(Melissa) Hmm?

「What is it?」(Hitto) 「Um, no. Earlier Goshujin-sama was, umm, N-Nevermind it's nothing! In any case, we should be hurrying!」(Melissa) ……? For some reason, her cheeks are a bit red and shes acting kind of strange, but for now let's leave that aside and head to the Adventurer's Guild. This will make it our third time here today.

「We've properly received the request -nyan. I'll hand it to the higher ups right away -nyan. If they get it quickly then we might be able to give you an estimate by today -nyan」(Nyanko) 「Yea, I'll leave it to you」(Hitto) Nevertheless, by today huh. Work gets done really fast around here huh 「Even so, to think that you'd get the client to designate you huh, you're quite good at this -nyan」(Nyanko) 「It's all because of Goshujin-sama's charisma」(Melissa) Melissa was speaking highly of me with a unusual smile on her face.
For some reason, it seems like she's suddenly in a good mood this time.

「By the way, did you find out why the first request didn't come here -nyan?」(Nyanko) Now that you mention it, there was that huh.

「No, not in detail. But from what I've heard there's been a small misunderstanding regarding Dowan. This time I properly received it from his so there shouldn't be any problems」(Hitto) 「I see, sonyat's how it washuh. I wasn't

sure what to do if adventurers discovered that it was a den of scams or something-nyan. It's a matter of trust nyafter all」(Nyank0) ……This is, well, if I told her about the adventurer named Ragna then I would feel a bitsorryfor him. Although I've never met him.

Also I wouldn't want the Guild to see the client as dangerous and delay their decision. I went through the trouble of being designated by him after all.

Well, even still, the way things are we're far off from 1.5 million huh…… We were almost there, but the Bank really hurt us huh——

「So, assuming everything goes smoothly, when do you think I'll be able to take the request?」(Hitto) 「After the people in charge discuss things and put it in order, they should put out the request by tomorrow -nyan. Since it's a designated request -nyan, we'll make sure no other adventurers take it -nyan」(Nyanko) 「Yea, thanks. Also, if I remember correctly Mt. Stone isn't that far away, right?」(Hitto) 「Goshujin-sama. If we headed to the Northeast of here, it would take us 3 hours to reach Mt. Stone by wagon」(Melissa) 「You beat me too it -nyan」(Nyanko) Well yea, Melissa is excellent after all.
Well, we finished what we had to say for now so Melissa and I left the Guild.
If things continue like this then we should be able to accept Dowan's request.
Tomorrow's course will be collecting Nankou Grass early in the morning, and then picking up the request when we get back.

「Melissa, sorry for keeping you so busy today, but can you head to a clothing store? If possible, a store that sells male and female underwear」(Hitto) 「Eh!? Male and Female?」(Melissa) 「That's right. A few for youas well, we have to buy some right?」(Hitto) 「There's no need for that! I am fine with what I have. I can't possibly burden Goshujin-sama more than I already have!」(Melissa) Well, even if you say that… You can't just wear a single pair forever, right?

「It's fine so just take us there. It's uncomfortable if you don't have a pair to change into right? I also need some anyways」(Hitto) 「Yes! Of course, we should always keep in mind Goshujin-sama's appearance. However, you do not have to worry about me. I can always wash itwhile doingthe laundry after all」(Melissa) 「No, if you wash it with the laundry, what will you wear in the meantime? It's not like they will instantly be dry afterwards」(Hitto) 「Th-That is… I will only not wear any during that time」(Melissa) Hey, Wait! What is this girl saying with her

face red like that!?

「There's no way you can do that! Just look at what you're wearing! In a short dress like that, wearing N-No Panties is way too dangerous! There's no way I'll allow it!」(Hitt0) With just a little bit of walking, she will probably be in danger of being "fully exposed" after all.

「Goshujin-sama…… You're right, of course you won't want to see something as unsightly as me」(Melissa) No, why did it become like that.

「D-Don't be silly. Melissa is undoubtedly beautiful, you know. It's just, well umm, you probably don't want to be "seen" by other people, and it's a bit embarrassing for me too… Anyways, that's how things are so please just head to the store!」(Hitto) 「Goshujin-sama……To go so far just for me—— Understood! I will take us to a merchant's store!」(Melissa) I'm not really sure why the conversation made her all teary-eyed, but for the time being we headed to the store.

「Thank you for your patronage」

The shopkeeper saw us off as we left the store. Knowing Melissa she probably took us to a relatively cheap store, but still the change of underwear for me and Melissa, and after buying 2 extra pairs of hemp trousers for me, everything ended up costing40,000 Gold.

We used to have1 million Gold but that became 500,000 Gold when we deposited it. The money we have on hand was only 80,000 Gold and not much of that is left now.
On top of it all, at most we can only take out 50,000 Gold and we'd have to wait 10 days for that.

I keep saying it, but it's completely messed up huh. 500,000 Gold just up and disappeared as soon as it's deposited, the hell's up with that. I just don't get it!

Damn it! We have to figure out if we can do something about that—— For now we should visit the bank and have a look huh.

「Ano, Goshujin-sama, I am truly grateful. However, will our funds be alright?」(Melissa) Muu, even Melissa is being apologetic.

Even so, I can't afford to be stingy here.
Truth is that our wallet is hurting quite a bit, but if we go and harvest Nankou Grass tomorrow morning then I have no doubts that our funds would exceed 100,000 Gold after that.
Earning 1.5 million will still be a bit tough, but we'llfigure it out somehow.

「There shouldn't be any problems for now. I can always earn more later after all. In any case, we have to find an inn to stay at for today. We can't stay at yesterday's place after all. Melissa, do you know a good inn that has a bath attached to the room?」(Hitto)「Eh? Attached to the room? Between the Western gate and Eastern gate are places called "Hotels" that have individual baths with each room, but-」(Melissa)「I see, in that case please take us there」(Hitto)「But Goshujin-sama, Hotels cost a considerable fee……」(Melissa)
Muu? As expected, they are expensive huh…… But, if it's only a little extra then it can't be helped. Or rather, now that we've made it this far we can't exactly be too stingy.

「Anyways, let's go and have a look. We won't know how much it will be if we don't look around, after all」(Hitto)「Yes, as you wish」(Melissa) Saying that, Melissa took the wagon out into the streets and went to our destination.
Looking around again, there really are a number of dazzling signboards being hung around in front of buildings that looked Hotels.
They existed back in the game but I've never been inside them.
Because of that, I'm not exactly sure what the prices are.
Well, even so, I doubt that the prices would be ridiculously expensive——

「Welcome」

……The interior is really different huh. I thought the same for the inn we stayed at yesterday, but this hotel has a marble floor with elegant looking pillars.
The entrance was wider than yesterday's inn as well.
The receptionist at the counter was a man wearing a black suit.
Not good, I'm starting to get a bit nervous.

「Would you be looking for lodging?」

「Yea, that's what we were planning on, there's no problem with that,

right?」(Hitto)「Yes, at this establishment, even if you are together with a slave, we strive to provide you with the absolute best service」

「I-Is that so……」(Hitto) His toneis completely unchanging. He isn't showing signs of hesitation and his expressions are also very courteous.
It doesn't seem like he's discriminant towards slaves either.
Well, but still, it seems like some places refuse you if you want to lodge together with a slave huh.

「However there is one extra point. Here at this Hotel, if you are to lodge together with a slave then we request the right to confirm that you are officially master and servant. Although it happens rarely, at times there are customers who are assisting fugitiveslaves, you see——」

……This is bad. It's not like I'm bringing along a run away slave, but I don't have anything yet that proves Melissa is an official slave .
Should I try explaining it to them? No, if I did that then it would only seem even more suspicious.

It can't be helped so I guess we should obediently give in and just——No, right now we should say it's okay to check or else it will seem suspicious. Especially since we can use Cancel, it hasn't been decided if we're going to stay here or not. In that case——

「Well before that, how much will it cost to stay for one night? I would like to know before we proceed」(Hitto)「Oh my, how impolite of me. At this establishment, if you were to lodge together with a slave including our other services, a single night will cost 30,000 Gold」

「30,000! There's unreasonable! It's way too expensive! Our budget is only about 3,000 to begin with!」(Hitto)「Eh? T-Three thousand Gold is it? It that case it will be a bit——」

「I know, right! Yea, it looks like coming here was a mistake. Sorry for taking up some of your time」(Hitto)「Oh no, not at all. If the time comes when your budget can allow it, please feel free to utilize our services next time」

As I was seen off by the bellboy at the front entrance, Melissa and I left the Hotel.
Anyways, I was planning on staying if it was out of our budget range by just a bit,

but one night is 30,000!? That's just too expensive!

「What's this? Oh my, well this is quite the coincidence」

I was racking my brain on where we should stay for tonight as we left the hotel, when from the side someone called out to us.
Wondering who it was so I took a look, standing there was a tall man in a white suit, looking on with a friendly smile on his face.
His blond hair was combed down with wax in a slick fashion, he seemed somewhat like an aristocrat but——

Who in the world is this guy? Hmmm, but I remember that shameless smile from somewhere… wait, those rimless glasses and narrow eyes—— Oh!

「Sha——!?」

「Otto……」

Saying that, Shadow covered my mouth with his right hand.

「On this side of things I go by the name Light, it's a please to make your acquaintance」

With his narrow eyes he skillfully gave me a wink, as if asking me for a favor.
Wait, Why is this guy here anyways?

Chapter 30 “The Inn That’s Like a Hideaway Spot Is a Bit…… Strange?”

「As Hitto-sama is well aware of, my main occupation is that of what is seems, but I also have customers on this side of things, you see. From time to time, I go around town like I am now」(Shadow) I had Melissa take us to an alleyway slightly far away from the Hotel, and I once again began talking with this man who bares the names Light and Shadow.
It seems like this place is made up to be that Hotel’s parking lot for wagons, but if we’re here only for a bit then it should be okay.

But in any case, why is it that this guy knows my name?

「I don’t remember naming myself to you though」(Hitto) 「Oh, if it’s only something of that level then it is possible to find out in no time you know.Like I said earlier, my main occupation is on the “underground” side of things after all」(Shadow) Shadow had a thin smile as he answered with a *Fufu*
……Well, now that I think about it I alsotold my name to that gatekeeperwhen I was buying information from him. It shouldn’t be that hard to find out.

「Incidentally, how goes things for you as of late? Have you earned enough so that you can utilize my services yet?」(Shadow) 「No, not much time has passed since we’ve last metyou know……」(Hitto) It’s more like our funds went in the opposite direction.
However……I think I can understand where he’s coming from.
Although he does a lot of business with adventurers, if he is able to manipulate various people then he should be able to earn millions from them.

After all, the institutions in this territory are completely absurd. Not just the bank but the entire system is designed to extorteverything you own.
In a situation like this there’s bound to be people who want to keep their money off the record. In other words, it’s similar to tax evasion.

As for the adventurers, if they get their hands on a valuable treasure and end up selling it earnestly, then the bank might immediately find out and their earning might be taken away as interest rate. In times like these, if they sold it underhandedly to people like Shadow then they would be able to keep the

money for themselves.

Of course, if they sold it to this man then the sale should never become to known to the public.
Otherwise the users of their service would be exposed.

「Is that so, I'm sorry. I saw you coming out of that high class Hotel, so I had thought for sure that you had earned an appropriate amount, you see」(Shadow) Kuu, the only thing I can hear is your sarcasm!

「That place, we only went to have a see how much it cost. As expected, it was too expensive so we immediately gave up though」(Hitto) 「Oh? Is that how it is? Even if you present them with money, that place does notallow fugitive slaves to stay there. I thought that might have be the reasonthat you gave up」(Shadow) In that moment I lookedtowards Shadow with a scowl. What are you trying to imply?

「Oh my, please don't look at me with such scary eyes. I am also a part of the underground business. Of course I will not be telling other people, and if you'd like I can even assist you, you know?」(Shadow) He waved both hands side to side as he offered his proposition.

「Y-You are mistaken! I am not yet a runaway slave! We still have until tomorrow for the time extension, so for my sake Goshujin-sama is——」
「Melissa!」(Hitto) I quickly turned my head towards Melissa, raising my voice to warnher.
Noticing that, Melissa hurriedly covered her mouth with both hands.

「Fumu, by time extension you mean…… Perhaps, Hitto-san, you saved this slave from something, and moreover you did not immediately deliver her back—— Meaning that you plan on purchasing her, is the situation like that?」(Shadow) This guy, he figured out so much from just that huh. I didn't say anything for the time being, but Shadow simply wore a thin smile, as if he could see right through me.

「However, purchasing a slave such as her is not a simple task, is it not? Since she possesses such beautiful features and proportions, I would estimate that a slave of this caliber would go for about 3 million Gold by today's market price」(Shadow) 3 million? As expected, I don't really know specifics like that

though. According to Melissa it should be 1.5 million.
Maybe she isn't too familiar with the prices of slaves huh.
……Well that's fine.

「I don't plan on answering any of your questions. Also, this matter has nothing to do with you,right?」(Hitto) 「Hmm~ I suppose so. However, if the need for funds every should arise then please do not hesitate taking out a loan from us」(Shadow) 「……I'll ask just in case, but you won't be lending money with no strings attached right? Naturally」(Hitto) Of course I don't plan on resorting to such a tactic, but I'll hear him out nonetheless.

「Certainly, although we do give out loans without any necessary collateral…… All we ask of in return is about a 10% increase every 5 days, personally I believe this to be a pretty good deal you know」(Shadow) Wearing a small smile he said it as if it was a trivial amount…… But doesn't 10% every 5 days mean 20% in 10 days!? If you keep the loan for a month then it will go over 50%! It's practically oozing with greed!It's a dirty loan!

「That's entirely out of the question then. With interest that high I doubt it's even remotely close to a "loan"」(Hitto) Melissa also let loose her expression and seemed uneasy about it.
Don't worry, I would no way I would resort to using a loan with such unreasonable interest.

「Is that so? How unfortunate. Since, as an adventurer, there are quite a few request that will earn you a large amount of income in one go, I thought perhaps the loan might be of some convenience」(Shadow) ……So there's actually people who take out that loan.

「Hm, Wait, this isn't the time for us to be talking to you. We have to hurry up and find an inn to stay for the night」(Hitto) 「Oh? An inn?…… haha~ha」(Shadow) A crease appeared near his narrow eyes, and a mischievous smile arose on his face.
What exactly did that remind him of……

「Is it possible, are you perhaps in need of an inn to stay? Although she is not a fugitive slave, she is still a slave not bound by a contract. You must be having trouble finding a place because of that」(Shadow) ……Well, that's not exactly why

though.

「In that case, if you would be so inclined, shall I recommend to you a nice inn?」(Shadow) 「Either way, it probably won't be "for free" right?」(Hitto) When I replied, Shadow had on a suspicious look as he waves his hands saying "Oh heavens, no".

「Too seek something in return for merely suggesting an inn to you, I am certainly not that shameless. In addition, Hitto-san might become a welcomed customer in the future after all」(Shadow) Thinking that it wasn't a bad offer I unintentionally knitted my eyebrows in suspicion.
But…… Knowing our sorry situation with the bank, I don't think we can afford to refuse.

「If you're going to tell use for free then I'll gladly hear you out, but to clarify things, it's not because of Melissa that we can't find an inn. It's just that I don't want to stay at an inn that treats slaves badly」(Hitto) "Ah~" his thin eyes seemed like they were pried open. He looked at Melissa and I with extreme interest.

「I see, I see. But, if that is the case then it will be all the more fitting. The place I was going to suggest will take you in regardless of your social standing or your past. Of course they will not pry too deeply into those subjects either. Although, in exchange for that privacy it is strictly forbidden to inquire about other customers regarding those subjects」(Shadow) ……Somehow that place seems a bit sketchy, but if that is the only condition then it's not that much of a hindrance.

「Does it come with a bath?」(Hitto) 「They manage abathing area together on the first floor. If you choose to stay there then you will be free to use it at your convenience」(Shadow) It seems like there isn't a bath for each individual room, but based on their policies I doubt anyone would complain if a slave went in there or not.
The place was located near a road that ran to the south-west. To get there you had to first go down an alley that was in the middle of that street…… Shadow drew us a simple map but looks like the place is located right by the slums huh.
Well, we don't really have to luxury of being picky at a time like this.

「……Thanks for the information」(Hitto) 「We are truly grateful for your kindness」(Melissa) After I said my thanks Melissa also said her part while bowing her head in earnest.
There might be some hidden motive behind it, but since he gave us information free of charge the least we can do is say our thanks.

「No need to thank me. Oh yes, if you do go to that establishment then I believe things will go by faster if you mention that you heard about it from me. Well then, allow me to take my leave. Ah, I am also looking forward to doing business together in the future」(Shadow) Saying that he gave a bow, and Shadow left our sights.
He disappears right after giving us some good info huh.
With this I won't be able to brush him off the next time we meet.
Perhaps this guy… He might do this kind of thing to make important people into his customers.

Well, that's fine. He went through the trouble of telling us about the place after all. Let's make good use of that info.
Melissa and I went back to the Hotel parking lot and rode the wagon towards the inn.
It's already starting to get dark outside. The magic devices are lighting up the main streets,but they don't quite reach the alleyways.

The place is near the slums so it's best if we were in a hurry.

◇◆◇

The inn that Shadow told us about, at first we had absolutely no idea where to find it.
Since it was also in an alleyway the surroundings weren't that much different from Dowan's store, but at this particular time of dayit's so dark that you would hesitate to walk around here alone.

Down the alley was a buildingthat looked like it wasmadeby an apprentice builder. It was the inn that Shadow was talking about.
The place was pretty much made of stone, but there were cracks in the walls here and there, and things like moss were growing on it.
It's not like we were expecting it be luxurious, but this inn wouldn't be called

“elegant” by any stretch of the imagination.

To top it off, the inn didn’t have a sign or billboard at all. Remembering that they supposedly had a place to take a hot bath, we were only able to recognize the place because it had a smoke chimney.

Also this building… the entrance was also hard to comprehend. It wasn’t in the front but on the side instead. The entrance to the first floor was located in a small path sandwiched between the neighboring building. It seems like this entrance is also used by customers who want to use the baths.

Beside the entrance was a staircase that led to the second floor.
Looking at the place, we began wondering what to do with the wagon.

According to Shadow there was suppose to be a place to put a wagon, but I had no idea where it could be.

「Goshujin-sama. I willstay as a lookoutso——」(Melissa) Melissa said that as to urge me to finish checking in while she was away.
Muu, Leaving Melissa for too long in a place like this makes me a bit uneasy, but she has a weapon so I gave in thinking it would be okay.

Either way, now is not the time to be needlessly saying that she can’t go, but…… It can’t be helped. In any case, after telling her, “I’ll immediately ask them where to put the wagon, so if something happens thenbe sure to scream right away,” I made a dash to the second story of the inn.

The staircase was also narrow and the front desk(?)didn’t seem like one at all. On a really dirty floor, far in the back, was a small wooden counter.

And, behind the counter was probably a woman, but——she was lying face down snoring with a “Guu~ Guu~“.

……Wh-What’s up with this inn? A bunch of things just keep on making me even more anxious, but it’s too late now to start Canceling things.
If I backed down now then without a doubt we’d be spending today sleeping outdoors.

「Umm, Excuse me」(Hitto)「……」

No response at all, almost as if she was a dead corpse——Hey! Now’s not the

time to be saying that.
Looks like I have no choice but to wake her up. Wait, why is this person wearing something like a negligee……

Well, in any case I went over to shake the woman's shoulder, but——in that moment she abruptly lifted up her head, and grasping a knife in her right hand she pressed itagainst my neck.
Seriously, what the hell is this?

「You've got some balls, disturbing my sleeplike that, haa?Do you have a death wish?」

……Are you some kind of mercenary, this person——

「I, came here as a customer though……」(Hitto)「Cusstomerr~?」

With scrutinizing eyes, she strengthened her gaze. Wait, don't go "strengthening" your hold on the knife too.

「Since you didn't wake up when I called to you, I thought I might shake you a bit is all. Or rather, this is an inn right? I came because Shadow told me about it but……」(Hitto) The moment I said that name, the woman swiftly loosened her grip and lowered the knife.

「Oooh, so you're a friend of Shadow's huh. In that case ya shoulda said so earlier~」

……There wasn't an opportunity for that though. Wait, you were asleep just now anyways.

「And? Why are you here?」

「I'm a customer! I just want to stay here! Isn't that obvious? This place is an inn, right?」(Hitto)「Hmm? Oh yea, that's right. Right now this place was an inn」

"Right now"… what was this place before…… However, getting a second look at her she has messy black hear down to her shoulders.
She's completely different from when she was thrusting the knife, her face doesn't have make-up and looks totally unmotivated.

On top of that she looks like she's wearing a black negligee. The fabric and her pale skin are completely in full view.

That’s pretty astounding…… Is she the owner of this inn? Thinking back, that guy did say that there was a female manager.
Nevertheless,the impression she gives off is that she’s entirely unkempt.
Is she in her 30s? She doesn’t have make-up on but her face isn’t bad. If she properly put on make-up then she might look pretty attractive.
But for various reasons it’s way too disappointing.

「So what you’re saying is you want a room~?」

「Before that I want to do something about our wagon. I heard from Shadow that there was a place for us to put it, is that right?」(Hitto) Once I asked her, she slowly responded with an, “Hmm~ Letme think~” as she roughly scratchedher head.
……It really is a disappointment.

「There’s aspot by the entrance to the first floor you can leave it thereyou know~」

「In the front? I didn’t see anything that looked like a place for wagons by the entrance though? I have a female companion with me who’s waiting with the wagon. If something were to happen then things could get dangerous, so I would appreciate if you could hurry up and tell me」(Hitto)「A companion, you, with a girl~?」

「……Is there a need for me to answer that?」(Hitto) Wasn’t it a rule that you don’t ask about a customer’s background?

「Naaah. I just felt like askin~ Ya don’t have to answer if ya don’t want to, We won’t be askin unnecessary questionsso just relaax~ Well still, you don’t haveta worry about something happenin~ The area round here ain’t that dangerous~ If it’s a woman then at bestonly the tip will get inside ya know~」

While shaking her right hand up and down, she said it like it was no big deal but isn’t that a huge problem!?

「Anyway, just hurry up and tell me!」(Hitto)「You’re real hasty huh~Are you quick like that in bed too~?」

「Just H・U・R・R・Y ・U・P」(Hitto) When I emphasizing myself, the woman finally started to move. After she said, “Okay~ Wait for me out in front~”I

returneddownstairs and went back to Melissa.

……But, is this inn really alright?